



English Language

Subject Verb Agreement

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General Discussion

- 0 I am playing football.
- 0 He is playing football.
- 0 They are playing football.

উপরোক্ত ৩টি বাক্যে verb-এর বিভিন্ন রূপ আমরা দেখতে পাই subject-এর ক্ষেত্রে Number and Person-এর ভিন্নতার কারণে। Sentence-এ subject-এর number and person অনুযায়ী verb এর সঠিক ব্যবহার কেই subject-verb agreement বলে।

Syntax: Syntax or sentence building is the grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence. (বাক্যে শব্দের পদক্রমের সঠিক ব্যবহার)।

Related Questions

1. Subject-verb Agreement refers to-
 - a. Person only
 - b. Number and person
 - c. Number, person, and gender
 - d. Number only

Ans:b

2. Syntax denotes-
 - a. Manner of speech
 - b. Rules of building sentence
 - c. Rules for correct pronunciation
 - d. Rules for correct punctuations

Ans:b

3. The word 'Syntax' means-
 - a. Manner of speech
 - b. Supplementary tax
 - c. Sentence construction
 - d. None

Ans:c

Rules of Subject-Verb agreement

- First and foremost rule: Singular subject always takes singular verb and plural subject takes plural verb.

Example: The memorandum **is** not important.
The memoranda are **not** important.

- যখন দু'টি subject and দ্বারা যুক্ত থাকে :

Rules-a: যখন and দ্বারা দুই বা ততোধিক ভিন্ন Noun or Pronoun যুক্ত হয় তখন verb plural হবে।
Example: Karim and Rahim **have played** football this afternoon.

Rules-b: And দ্বারা যুক্ত দু'টি singular noun যদি একই ব্যক্তি নির্দেশ করে তাহলে singular verb এবং যদি ভিন্ন ব্যক্তি নির্দেশ করে তাহলে plural verb ব্যবহৃত হবে।

Example: The magistrate and collector **is going** to visit our office.

The magistrate and the collector **are going** to visit our office.

* যদি দু'টি noun-এর আগেই the থাকে তাহলে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন ব্যক্তি বোঝায়, the না থাকলে একই ব্যক্তি বোঝায়।

Rules-c: And দ্বারা যুক্ত দু'টি সমজাতীয় noun (bed and breakfast, bread and butter, honesty and truthfulness, honor and glory, horse and carriage, name and address, rice and curry, slow and steady) একই জিনিসকে বোঝালে singular verb ব্যবহৃত হবে।

Example: The bed and breakfast **was** charming.

Slow and steady **wins** the race.

* Time and tide wait/waits for none- both are correct. But it is advisable to use 'wait' in this particular example. In this case the two words time and tide do not describe one individual quality rather two subjects individually, hence imply a plural number.

- যাদের পর সবসময় singular verb বসেঃ সাধারণত traffic, scenery, poetry, offspring, luggage, machinery, information, hair, furniture, expenditure, crime, bread, alphabet, advice ইত্যাদির plural হয় না, যার ফলে এদের পর singular verb ব্যবহৃত হয়।
Example: Crime **is** a problem in most big cities.
The traffic **is** unmanageable in Dhaka.

- দেখতে plural মনে হলেও যারা singular verb নেয়ঃ Name of country, place, book (যেমন: Arabian nights, Great Expectations) or Person (Charles Dickens, John Keats) ইত্যাদি।
Example: The Gulliver's Travels **is** wonderful to read.
The news **is** always bad now-a-days
The United States of America **is** a rich country.

তাছাড়া civics, economics, mathematics, physics, statistics, forestry, cultural studies, ethics, politics, athletics, bowls, gymnastics, innings, billiards, darts, dominoes, draughts, measles, mumps, shingles, gallows, whereabouts ইত্যাদি শব্দ গুলো দেখতে plural হলেও অর্থ singular এবং singular verb নেয়।

Example: Cultural studies **is** a newly emerging subject.

Physics **is** a difficult subject.

* যদি কোনো specific reference বোঝায় তাহলে এই noun গুলো plural verb নেয়।

Example: His mathematics are weak.

- কিছু collective term যারা singular verb নেয়ঃ A herd of cattle, A gaggle of girls, A pack of dogs, A pride of lions, A school of fish/fishes, A gang of rogues, A chorus of singers etc. singular verb নেয় কারণ A থাকায় এদের দ্বারা একটি single unit বোঝাচ্ছে।
Example: A flock of birds **has flown** over our head.

A basket of mangoes **has been bought**.

- দেখতে singular মনে হলেও যারা plural verb নেয়ঃ Aristocracy, cattle, clergy, folk, gentry, nobility, people, police, poultry, vermin ইত্যাদির পর verb-এর plural form বসে।
Example: The police **are** very much appreciated in developed countries.
Overall a billion people **speak** Chinese all over the world.
 - Subject-এ একই সাথে ইতিবাচক এবং নেতিবাচক হলেঃ ইতিবাচক অংশ অনুযায়ী verb বসবে।
Example: It is not the faculty members but the chairman who gives scholar ships to underprivileged students.
 - Plural noun যদি সুনির্দিষ্ট পরিমাপ বোঝায়ঃ যদি Plural noun দ্বারা একটি নির্দিষ্ট দৈর্ঘ্য, পরিমান, স্থান বোঝায় অর্থাৎ amount of money, time, distance, weight, length বোঝালে verb singular হবে।
Example: Twenty dollars is a big amount of money.
7 miles is a long distance.
 - যখন ২টি subject together with, along with, accompanied by/with, as well as, in collaboration with, in addition to, including ইত্যাদি দ্বারা যুক্ত থাকেঃ এসব ক্ষেত্রে verb 1st subject-এর number and person অনুযায়ী হবে।
Example: The president with his followers is going to be present.
They as well as he are responsible for the accident.
 - Any, all, anybody, anything, each, every, everybody, everyone, everything, nobody, no-one, nothing, somebody, someone, something, what, whatever, whoever, whichever ইত্যাদি থাকলেঃ এসব ক্ষেত্রে verb সাধারণত singular হবে।
Example: Everybody has gone there.
None is helpless because they can always try.
All of it depends on you.
- *Each যদি plural subject-কে নির্দেশ করে, তাহলে verb-টি plural হবে।
Example: They each were informed of the matter.
- Several, few, many, others, people etc. থাকলে: verb plural হবে।
Example: Many goats are sleeping and few cows are grazing in the field.
Several students were absent from the class.
 - যদি plural noun of দিয়ে singular subject (any, each, one of, either of, neither of, none...etc) এর সাথে যুক্ত থাকে তাহলে verb-টি singular হবে।
Example: One of the boys was/is present.
Each member of the large family has his own set of priorities.
Neither of the two boys was selected.
None of the news about this crime is authentic.
 - Subject হিসেবে gerund, infinitive, clause or phrase থাকলে verb-টি singular হবে।
Example: Buying clothes is my favorite hobby.
Reading novels is my passion.

Educating all people is a mammoth task.
To walk in the morning is good for health.

- Subject হিসেবে Adjective-এর আগে The থাকলেঃ এক্ষেত্রে adjective-টি Plural common noun হয়ে যায়, তাই verb-টি plural হবে।
Example: The virtuous are always happy.
- Subject-এ pair থাকলেঃ Glasses, sunglasses, spectacles, jaws, odds, pants, scissors, trousers, socks ইত্যাদির আগে the pair, a pair, every pair, this pair থাকলে verb-টি singular হবে। অন্যথায় verb-টি plural হবে।
Example: This pair of socks is too small for me.
Sunglasses are much more than a fashion necessity.
- দু'টি subject or, nor, either...or, neither....nor, not only....but also ইত্যাদি দ্বারা যুক্ত থাকলে verb-টি শেষের subject- number and person অনুযায়ী হবে।
Example: Neither Professor Shanta Shaha nor any other faculty member intends to contest for the chairman's position.
Either the teacher or the students are to blame.
Not only Dipu but also his friends were absent from the practice match.
- Collective noun subject হিসেবে থাকলেঃ
Noun গুলো (class, committee, club, jury, family, team) যদি একই মত, ধারণা, ইচ্ছা, কাজ পোষণ করে তাহলে verb-টি singular হবে। অন্যথায় verb-টি plural হবে।
Example: The jury were arguing among themselves.
The jury was able to give an unquestionable verdict.
- Subject হিসেবে number of থাকলেঃ
A number of থাকলে noun and verb both will be plural.
The number of থাকলে noun will be plural but verb will be singular.
Example: A number of banks use SWIFT for ensuring valid transactions.
The number of students seeking scholarships has increased in recent times.
- Preposition থাকলেঃ কোনো sentence-এ প্রথম Preposition-এর পূর্বের Noun অনুযায়ী verb বসবে।
Example: A basket of rotten oranges was thrown away.
The files of any computer are vulnerable to cyber attack.
The presence of students in the class is important.

Noun-এর পূর্বে many থাকলেঃ

Many a/many an থাকলে singular বোঝায় এবং verb-টি singular হবে।

A great many/a good many/too many থাকলে plural বোঝায় এবং verb-টি plural হবে।

Example: Many a flower is born to blush unseen.

A great many houses were burnt last night.

- More than থাকলেঃ
More than one থাকলে noun/verb দুটিই singular হবে।

More than two/three/four থাকলে noun/verb দুটিই plural হবে।

Example: More than one person was involved in the murder.
More than two midfielders were suspended for the final match.
- Some, more, most, rest, all, majority, minority, a lot of/lots of, a great deal of, plenty of etc. থাকলেঃ যদি uncountable noun-এর সাথে থাকে তাহলে verb singular হবে।
যদি plural noun-এর সাথে থাকে তাহলে verb plural হবে।

Example: Most of the milk has gone bad.
Some of the boxes were damaged during the transportation.
- All থাকলেঃ যদি everything/whole অর্থে ব্যবহৃত হয় তাহলে verb singular হবে। অন্যথায় যেমন all men/all things অর্থে ব্যবহৃত হলে verb plural হবে।

Example: All that glitters is not gold.
All of us know it.
- Relative pronoun থাকলেঃ Who, which, what, how, whose, that ইত্যাদি থাকলে verb-টি relative pronoun-এর antecedent (পূর্ববর্তী noun/pronoun) এর noun ও pronoun অনুযায়ী বসবে।

Example: You are the man who has always helped me in my difficult times.
He is one of the boys who have written the letter.
Everybody who has got a headache should be excused from the drill practice.
- Fraction (ভগ্নাংশ) থাকলেঃ Numerator (লব) ১ থাকলে denominator (হর) এর সাথে s যোগ হয় না। অন্যথায়, s যোগ হয়। যেমনঃ one-third, one-fifth, two-thirds, three-fifths.

Fraction/percentage + countable noun থাকলে verb-টি plural হবে।
Fraction/percentage + uncountable noun থাকলে verb-টি singular হবে।

Example: Three-fourths of the assignment has been finished.
Nearly 71% of the members are in favor of the policy.
- Introductory here/there থাকলেঃ Verb-এর পরের subject অনুযায়ী verb বসবে।

Example: Here are the notebook and the report I promised you last week.

Subject + verb-এর পর one of/ the only one of থাকলেঃ

Sub + verb + one of + plural noun/pronoun + who verb-টি plural হবে
Sub + verb + the only one of + plural noun/pronoun + who verb-টি singular হবে।

Example: He is one of the players who practice overtime regularly.
Karim is the only one of the students who has proved his performance.
- বাক্যের শুরুতে hardly, rarely, seldom, never, never again, only rarely, not one, not once, not until etc. থাকলে এবং তা যদি negative prominence প্রকাশ করে, তাহলে structure হবেঃ

hardly, rarely, seldom..... etc.+ auxiliary verb + subject + verb according to subject.

2. Which one of the following is correct:

- a) Sceneries of Rangamati are beautiful. b) Scenery of Rangamati are beautiful.
c) Sceneries of Rangamati were beautiful. d) Scenery of Rangamati is beautiful.

Ans:d

3. A lot of news in those papers _____ unreliable.

- a) are b) is
c) were d) b

Ans:b

4. Eleven thousand taka _____ a good amount of money.

- a) is b) are
c) was d) be

Ans:a

5. Everything including the books _____ bought.

- a) was b) were
c) are d) has

Ans:a

6. কোনটির পর singular verb বসে?

- a) Somebody b) Nobody
c) No one d) সবকয়টির পর

Ans:d

7. One of the ___ his ability to lecture.

- a) greater attributes of a professor is b) great attribute of a professor is
c) greatest attributes of a professor are d) greatest attributes of a professor is

Ans:d

8. The only error in the sentence 'One of the recommendation made by the committee was accepted by the authorities' is-

- a) recommendation b) was
c) accepted by d) committee

Ans:a

9. Which one of the following is correct:

- a) Neither of the roads lead to the railway station.
b) Neither of the roads leading to the railway station.
c) Neither of the roads leads to the railway station.
d) Neither roads are led to the railway station.

Ans:c

10. Which one of the following is correct:

- a) The matter was informed to the police. b) The matter had been informed to the police.
c) The police were informed of the matter. d) The police was informed of the matter.

Ans:c

11. The actress, along with her friends _____

- a) are going to a party tonight b) is going to a party tonight
c) had been going to a party tonight d) would be going to a party tonight

Ans:b

12. The movie, including the previews, ___ about two hours to watch:

- a) need
- b) takes
- c) has fixed
- d) have required

Ans:b

13. Which one of the following is correct:

- a) Either they or I are wrong
- b) Either they or I is wrong
- c) Either they or I am wrong
- d) Either they or I were wrong.

Ans:c

14. The mob _____ dispersed.

- a) is
- b) are
- c) have
- d) has

Ans:d

15. The invention of automatic weapons ___ endangered our life.

- a) is
- b) has
- c) have
- d) was

Ans:b

16. Choose the correct sentence:

- a) One and a half hour is a long time
- b) One and a half hours is a long time.
- c) One and a half hour are a long time.
- d) One and a half hours are a long time.

Ans:b

17. Choose the correct sentence:

- a) He is a person whom I know is sincere.
- b) He is a person who I know is sincere.
- c) All failed except he.
- d) This is a matter between you and I.

Ans:b

18. Two-thirds of the work ___ done.

- a) have been
- b) were
- c) has been
- d) had

Ans:c

19. _____ there any nursing schools ___ Chittagong?

- a) is, at
- b) are, on
- c) was, in
- d) are, in

Ans:d

20. One of the boys ___ present.

- a) was
- b) were
- c) are
- d) have been

Ans:a

21. The chairman and secretary ___ present at the last meeting.

- a) is
- b) were
- c) was
- d) have

Ans:c