



# CAPSTONE

## Verbal : Grammar

# Lecture 04

<u>Overview</u>	<u>Next Lecture</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Subject-Verb Agreement</li><li>◆ Subjunctive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Writing Types &amp; Tricks!</li></ul>

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*Verbal Lecture Sheet: 04*  
**SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT**

Every sentence must have a subject and a verb. The subject is the noun that performs the action expressed by the verb: The dog with the gray ears runs out of the house.

**Rule 01: Subject and Verb Must Exist**

If a sentence is missing the subject or the verb, the sentence is a **Fragment**: in other words, it is not a complete sentence!

**Wrong:** His knowledge of languages and international relations aid him in his work.

**Right:** His **knowledge** of languages and international relations **aids** him in his work.

**Rule 02: Subject and verb must make sense together**

**Wrong:** The development of a hydrogen car based on expected performance parameters will be able to travel hundreds of miles without refueling.

**Right:** Once developed, a hydrogen car based on expected performance parameters **will be** able to travel hundreds of miles without refueling.

**Rule 03: Subject and verb Must Agree in number**

The discovery of new medicines (was/~~were~~) vital to the Company's growth.

**Skill Builder 01**

1. Since the shipment of supplies for our experiments were delayed, we will have to reschedule our work.
2. The zoning improvement plan, better known as zip codes, enable postal clerks to speed the routing of an ever-increasing volume of mail.
3. One can only live without water for about ten days because almost 60 percent of their body is water.
4. Groups of tissue, each with its own function, \_\_\_\_\_ in the human body.  
A. it makes up the organs                      C. they make up the organs                      E. None of these  
B. make up the organs                              D. makes up the organs
5. Hamid is a proactive police officer, so although (A) the local rebellious teenagers are annoyed (B) by his strict nature (C), the overall safety of the town have improved (D) drastically since he was hired. No error (E).

**Rule 04: Eliminate the Middlemen**

**Prepositional phrases:**

of mice              for milk              by 1800              with her              at that level              to the store

Prepositions are followed by nouns or pronouns, which complete the phrase. Prepositional phrases modify or describe other parts of the sentence. Thus, you can generally eliminate them to find the subject.

**Wrong:** In the warring days of the emperor's life, the conquest of new lands on the borders of the empire were considered vital.

**Right:** ~~In the warring days of the emperor's life, the conquest of new lands on the borders of the empire was considered vital.~~

**Subordinate clause:**

When the auditors left, the executive who had been interviewed was/were glad.

~~When the auditors left, the executive who had been interviewed was glad.~~

**Rule 05: And vs. Additive phrases**

The word 'and' can unite two or more singular subject, forming a compound plural subject.

Joe and his friends are going to the beach.

Mathematics, history, and science are mandatory high- school subjects.

Many other words and phrases besides and can "add" to a subject. These words and phrases are called

Additive Phrases. Examples include the following:

Along with Jony	in addition to surgery	as well as the mayor
Accompanied by me	together with a tie	including Salt and pepper

Unlike and, additive phrases do not form compound subjects. Rather, additive phrases function as modifiers and therefore cannot change the number of the subject.

Tahsan, as well as his friends, is going to the beach.

Mathematics, in addition to history and science, is a required subject.

If one **subject** is singular and one plural and the words are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither...nor," "either...or," and "not only...but also", you use the verb form of the subject that is nearest the verb.

**Right:** Neither the coach nor the players are going to the beach.

**Right:** Neither the players nor the coach is going to the beach.

**Skill Builder 02**

**Directions:** Write a "C" on the line if the sentence is correct. If there is an error in the sentences, write the correct answer.

1. The facilities at the new research library, including an excellent microfilm file, is a among the best in the country.
2. Mary, accompanied by her brother, were very well received at talent show.
3. The Professor, with his assistant and press secretary, are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka.
4. I have not seen my cousins, now a woman, for many years.

5. Fame as well as fortune were his goals in life.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Fame as well as fortune were his goals | B. Fame as well as fortune was his goals |
| C. Fame and fortune were his goals        | D. Fame as well as fortune were his goal |
| E. Fame also fortune were his goals       |  |

### Rule 06: Collective Nouns: Almost Always Singular

A Collective noun is a noun that looks singular (it usually does not end with an-s) but can refer to a group of people or objects. Some examples include the following:

**People:** agency, army, audience, class, committee, crowd, orchestra, team

**Items:** baggage, equipment, fleet, fruit, furniture

**Right:** The crowd in the stands is cheering loudly as the home team takes the field.

**Right:** Our army of a hundred thousand soldiers is attacking the enemy.

### Rule 07: Indefinite pronouns: usually singular

Anyone, anybody, anything

No one, nobody, nothing

Someone, somebody, something

Everyone, everybody, everything

Each, every (as pronouns)

Whatever, whoever, either, neither

**Right:** some of the money was stolen from my wallet. (money is singular)

**Right:** Some of the documents were stolen from the bank. (documents is plural)

**Right:** Any of these women is a suitable candidate for marriage to my son.

**Note that:** Not one is always singular: Not one of my friends is here this weekend.

**Wrong:** Each man and woman have to consider how to react to such an emergency.

**Right:** Each man and woman has to consider how to react to such an emergency.

**But,**

**Wrong:** The women each has to consider how to react to such an emergency.

**Right:** The women each have to consider how to react to such an emergency.

**Wrong:** Either of the students have made a mistake.

**Right:** Either of the students has made a mistake.

### Rule 08: Quantity Words and phrases

The phrase the number of takes a singular verb, but A number of take a plural verb.

**Right:** The number of hardworking students in this class is quite large.

**Right:** A number of students in this class are hard workers.

"some," "half," "none," "more," or "all" are followed by a prepositional phrase. The object of the preposition determines the form of the verb.

**Right:** Half of the pie is blueberry.

**Right:** Half of the slices are already gone.

**Right:** A minority of the students are willing to pay more.

**Rule 09: Subject phrases and clauses: Always singular**

Sometimes the subject of a sentence is an –ing phrase or even a whole clause. This sort of subject is always singular and requires a singular verb form.

Having good friends is a wonderful thing.

Whatever they want to do is fine with me.

**Rule 10: Flip It!**

In most English sentences the subject precedes the verb.

Wrong: Near those buildings sit a lonely house, inhabited by squatters.

Flip it! A lonely house, inhabited by squatters, sits near those buildings.

Right: Near those buildings sits a lonely house, inhabited by squatters.

Wrong: There is a young man and an older woman at the bus stop.

Flip it! A young man and an older woman are there at the bus stop.

Right: There are a young man and an older woman at the bus stop.

**Skill Builder: 03**

**Directions: Write a "C" on the line if the sentence is correct. If there is an error in the sentences, write the correct answer.**

1. There are several jobs available.
2. Along the beach was several small boats that had been washed ashore.
3. Neither my sisters nor my brother is ready to begin college.
4. The lack of logic in his arguments never cease to surprise me.
5. She was determined to study nuclear physics, which was the most difficult course offered at that school.
6. Students who have difficulty with this subject should try to find someone who is willing to tutor them.
7. Either her husband or her children is going to be upset no matter what decision she makes.
8. Mrs Farin is one of the women who is responsible for writing that.
9. My uncle, as well as my father, are going to Canada on business.
10. The only one of his friends who is upset with Shajib is Babu.

**Practice some questions:**

1. Despite their avowed opposition to the strike, no one from among the dozens of nonunion workers were willing to cross the picket line. [IBA MBA, 2004-2005]

- A. from among the dozens of nonunion workers were willing
- B. of the dozens of nonunion workers were willing
- C. was willing from among the dozens of nonunion workers
- D. from among the dozens of nonunion workers was willing
- E. from the dozens of nonunion workers were willing

2. The reason I came late to class today is because the bus broke down. [IBA MBA 04-05]  
 A. I came late to class today is because B. why I came to class today is because  
 C. I was late to class today is because D. that I was late to class today is because  
 E. I came late to class today is that
3. Neither Mr. Turjoy nor his friends is invited to speak at the seminar. [IBA MBA '04]  
 A. is invited to speak at the seminar B. are invited to speak at the seminar  
 C. is speaking at the seminar D. are speaking at the seminar  
 E. will speak at the seminar
4. Whatever he aspired to achieve, they were hindered by his jealous stepbrothers.  
 A. Whatever he aspired to achieve, they B. Whatever he had any aspirations to, they  
 C. Whatever aspirations he had D. Whatever be his aspiration, they  
 E. Many of his aspirations and goals
5. During all these forty one years' life of Bangladesh, no one expected the public media was fair. [IBA MBA July '13]  
 A. was B. to be C. of being D. should be E. had to be
6. Lately (A), many of (B) the committee's (C) suggestions has been (D) rejected. No error (E). [IBA MBA July '16]
7. Determination of (A) the long term effects (B) of aerosols on the upper atmosphere are (C) currently one of the most challenging (D) problems in climate research. No error (E). [IBA MBA Dec '11]
8. A pair of supportive (A) shoes are (B) important if you (C) are experiencing (D) lower back pain. No error (E).

### SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive is a special, relatively rare verb form that expresses something **desired** or **imagined**.

We use the subjunctive when talking about events that somebody:

- **wants** to happen
- **anticipates** will happen

#### In certain *that* clauses

The base subjunctive is typically used in **that** clause after two structures:

##### 1. Verb or Noun + **that**

- advise, ask, command, demand, desire, insist, order, prefer, propose, recommend, request, suggest
- command, demand, order, proposal, recommendation, request, suggestion

##### 2. Adjective + **that**

- advisable, best, crucial, desirable, essential, imperative, important, necessary, unthinkable, urgent, vital

Look at these sentences which include examples of the above:

**Right:** He suggests that you be present at the meeting.

**Right:** The board recommended that he join the company.

**Right:** They made a suggestion that we be early.

**Right:** He boss insisted that Sam not be at the meeting.

**Right:** The president demanded that I be allowed to take part in the meeting.

**Right:** It is essential that the army advance rapidly.

**Right:** We have made a request that we *not be* disturbed.

**Notice above↑:**

- the position of *not* when creating negation
- that the main clause can be in any tense

**Skill Builder: 04**

**Directions:** Write a "C" on the line if the sentence is correct. If there is an error in the sentences, write the correct answer.

1. I propose that we all are waiting in Ryan's apartment when he gets home.
2. The board of directors recommended that he be not dismissed.
3. It is important that a car be waiting when we arrive.
4. It is mandatory that you be standing there when he gets off the plane.
5. It was urgent that the tax rate needs to be cut down.

**More Practices:**

1. The government requires that these forms should be submitted before the end of the financial year.  
A. that these forms should be submitted                      B. that these forms be submitted  
C. for these forms to be submitted                              D. these forms submission  
E. these forms should be submitted
2. The faculty suggested that support for the physics laboratory's expansion, which could be opened next year, is obtained through the university's alumni association.  
A. that support for the physics laboratory's expansion, which could be opened next year, is  
B. that support for the expansion of the physics laboratory, which could be opened next year, be  
C. support for the expansion of the physics laboratory, perhaps opening next year, to be  
D. support for the physics laboratory's expansion, perhaps opening next year, is  
E. expansion support for the physics laboratory's, which could be opened next year, is to be
3. It is likely for a dentist to ask that a patient visits him or her once a year.  
A. visits                      B. will visit                      C. would visit                      D. visit                      E. should visit

## Writing Homework:

Some people think that development of Information Technology (IT) will enhance human ingenuity. Others believe that development of (IT) will inhibit human ingenuity. Discuss both the points of view. Which view do you support? Give reasons for your choice.

## Mini Test on Lecture

Time: 10 minutes

Marks: 10

1. My favorite history professor, as well as (A) some of his administrative staff, were (B) asked to resign because (C) fewer students were taking history courses than (D) ever before. No error (E).
2. Sumi claims that she wants (A) to attend (B) college after graduation, but her poor attitude about studying (C) during senior year do not indicate (D) that she enjoys being a student. No error (E).
3. Alina's preference for (A) caviar and expensive chocolates are (B) not a reflection of what she actually enjoys, but (C) simply a manifestation of her tendency to spend (D) money carelessly. No error (E).
4. It is very sad that some people believe that if they do not have money or love, they has no reason to live.  
A. if they do not have money or love, they has                      B. without money or love, they have  
C. unless they will have money or love, they have              D. if they have no money or love, they had  
E. if they will have no money or love, they have
5. One of every two new businesses fail within two years.  
A. fail                      B. fails                      C. should fail                      D. may have failed                      E. has failed
6. Reading only the underlined part of the sentence in Sentence Correction questions save time, but increases the chances of answering the question incorrectly.  
A. in Sentence Correction questions save time, but  
B. of Sentence Correction questions may save time, but  
C. in Sentence Correction questions save time, and  
D. in Sentence Correction questions saves time, but  
E. of Sentence Correction questions saves time, and

7. Managing your irrigation system well and watering your grass wisely not only saves water, but helps to ensure the success of your lawn.

- A. saves water, but helps to ensure the success of your lawn
- B. saves water, but also help to ensure the success of your lawn
- C. saves water, but the success of your lawn is more helpfully ensured
- D. save water, but also help to ensure the success of your lawn
- E. save water, but also the success of your lawn is more helpfully ensured

8. Every one of the support staff and the participants have to compulsorily go through a full body search before they enter the competition area.

- A. have to compulsorily go through a full body search before they enter
- B. have to go through a compulsorily full body search before entering
- C. have to compulsorily go through a full body search before he or she enters
- D. has to compulsorily go through a full body search before entering
- E. has to compulsorily go through a full body search before they enter

9. The computer, one of the most recent (A) creations, have (B) revolutionized the world of (C) information processing (D). No error (E).

10. Not having (A) a plan for spending and savings habits is (B) one of the biggest pitfall (C) that keeps (D) entrepreneurs and others from achieving their wealth goals. No error (E).

Fill in the circle marks completely	2. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	5. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	8. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
	3. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	6. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	9. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
1. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	4. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	7. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)	10. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

**Skill Builder Answer**

<b>SB 01</b>	1. was delayed	2. enables	3. one's body	4. B	5. has improved			
<b>SB 02</b>	1. are	2. was	3. is	4. now women	5. C			
<b>SB 03</b>	1. C 3. C 5. C 7. Wrong (or her children are going) 9. Wrong (is going)			2. wrong (were several small boats) 4. Wrong (never ceases) 6. C 8. Wrong (the women who are responsible) 10. C				
<b>More Practice</b>	1. D	2. E	3. B	4. C	5. B	6. D	7. C	8. B
<b>SB 04</b>	1. we all be waiting	2. not be dismissed	3. C	4. C	5. need to be			
<b>More Practice</b>	1. B	2. B	3. D					