

## Subject Verb Agreement:

### Rule:

Singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take plural verbs,

1. Subjects connected by *and* are plural.
2. Certain expressions (*as well as, including, together with, along with*) Logically seem to change a singular subject to plural. They don't. These expressions will be set off from the subject by commas.
3. Every and each are always followed immediately by singular nouns. In this case, even when there are two (or more) nouns connected by *and*, the verb is singular.
4. Sometimes a phrase or clause separates a subject from its verb. These interrupting structures do not affect basic agreement.
5. A gerund used as the subject of the sentence requires a singular verb.
6. Singular subjects connected by conjunctions such as *either-or, neither-nor, or, and nor* stay singular.
7. If a singular and plural subject are connected by *either-or, neither-nor, or, or nor* the verb should agree with the subject closest to it.
8. Make the word agree with the head word of a long sentence. Ignore the phrases or clauses between the head and the verb. If the head word is a *he/she/it* form, use the third person singular form (-s ending) or the verb. If the head word is a *they* form, use the plural form of the verb (the base form with no -s ending).
9. When you write a relative clause beginning with *who, which, or that*, look for the head word (the word the relative pronoun refers to.) The head word determines whether the verb should be singular or plural.
10. The modal auxiliaries *will, would, can, could, shall, should, may, might, and must* do not have an -s form. In addition, it doesn't matter if their

subject is singular or plural, the modals are always followed by the simple form of the verb and never by the –s form.