

UNIT-2

CONCORD

Study the following sentences and notice how verbs in the predicate part change according to the number (Singular and Plural) and the person (1st person, 2nd Person, 3rd Person) of the nouns in the subject part.

- i. Dog barks. (Singular Subject)
- ii. Dogs bark. (Plural Subject)
- iii. I eat. (1st person singular subject)
- iv. He/ She eats . (3rd Person singular subject)

You can find some grammatical agreement between the subject and the verb in each of these sentences. Sentences without this agreement are grammatically wrong.

This agreement between subject and verb is known as **concord**.

The following sentences show lack of concord . So, they are grammatically incorrect sentences .

- i. Dog bark.
- ii. Dogs barks
- iii. I eats. (WRONG)
- iv. He/She eat.

Now, Mark the concord between the Noun or Pronoun in the Subject part and the pronoun in the predicate part in the following pairs of sentences.

- a. I have done my homework. (CORRECT)
I have done your home work. (INCORRECT)
- b. He has done his home work (CORRECT)
Bikash has done her homework (INCORRECT)
- c. They have finished their tasks (CORRECT)
They have finished our tasks (INCORRECT)
- d. Manashi went to the market with her mother . (CORRECT)

Manashi and Sulagna went to the market with her parents. (INCORRECT)

SOME IMPORTANT SITUATIONS OF CONCORD

1. One of my friends lives in Kolkata. (Live is incorrect)
(in “One of my friends”, the head word is ‘One’
Which is singular)
2. “Each of” takes a singular verb .
Examples: Each of them is tired.
Each of the students is intelligent.
3. “None of” takes plural verb (in informal and conversational English)
None of these people are rich.
None of the students have text-books.
4. Some of the children are naughty. (“Children” is countable plural noun)
Some of the music is quite heart-touching (“Music” is uncountable singular)
5. A number of students are absent. (a number of = many)

The number of patients in the cancer ward is increasing (number as the head word of the head word of the subject is singular)

6. Neither
Either - (Without nor/or) takes a singular verb .

Either of the children has got a prize .

Neither of them has visited the konark

(The words either and neither admit that the maximum number is two. So, either means one of the two . Similarly Neither means not this one nor the other one .)

7. When two alternative subjects are combined by either -----or / Neither-----or)
 - i) When both the alternatives are singular, the verb is singular
Either/Neither Firoz or/ nor Suman has broken the plate.
 - ii) When both the alternatives are plural , the verb is plural .
Either /Neither the boys or/nor the girls have done this work.
 - iii) When one of the alternative subjects is plural the verb must be plural, and the plural subject is placed as the second alternative subject (nearest the verb)

Either/ Neither Firoz or/nor his friends have done this work..

- iv) When the subjects are of different persons the verb agrees with the near subject.

Either he or I have done this work

Neither you nor he has done this work

Either he or I shall do this work.

8. An uncountable noun , though plural in sense takes a singular verb.

The old man's hair is grey, (not hairs)

The grass is growing very long here.(not grasses)

9. A collective noun takes a singular verb when it is thought of as a whole or as a single unit, but when they are thought of as a collection of separate individuals , a plural verb is used.

(Family as a unit or Whole)

1. Our family is not rich

2. Our family consists of three members

3. Our family has a close connection with this temple

(Our family are staying at different places (family as individual members)

The temple committee was newly formed . (as single unit)

The committee were divided on a controversial issue (Individual members)

Some other the collective nouns : -

Company, audience , government

Community, army, crowd,

Team, Public, army,

10. Some nouns are singular in form but plural in remaining , such as police , people, cattle, staff, dozen, etc. These nouns take a plural verb .

People are not happy with this decision.

The cattle are grazing

The police are trying to catch the thief.

11. Some nouns are always used as singular. They take a singular verb.

Furniture , advice, food, stationery , traffic, accommodation , scenery, information,

Clothing- Singular

Clothes- Plural.

The furniture is new. (not, furniture's are)

12. Some nouns are singular, although they look like plural nouns , so, they take singular verb .

Physics, Economics, Mathematics, Electronics, news, politics, measles etc.

The news was not correct . (not, news were)

Statistics is my favorite subject.

Mumps is a dangerous disease .

13. Some nouns are known as pair Nouns . These nouns are made up of two similar parts in a pair.

Example: - Scissors , trousers , spectacles (glasses) . These nouns are treated as plural subjects , so , they take plural verb.

The scissors are new.

Your new glasses are attractive

His trousers need cleaning.

14. When amount , distances , weight, height or time is expressed as a single unit of measurement , it is treated as a singular subject . singular verb is used for them .

Amount : - The hundred core rupees was sanctioned to build a bridge.

Distance : - Twenty miles was covered in thirty minutes .

Weight : - Thirty kilograms of rice is enough for a month.

Time : - Three weeks is a long vacation.

15. The following plural nouns are actually the names of some single object , so , they take singular verb.

i) *Gulliver's Travels was written by Jonathon Swift .*

ii) *The united states is very rich in science and technology*

iii) *The Arabian Nights deals with some imaginary stories.*

16. Mark the difference between the following sentence : -

I) *The poet and the politician were present , (The poet and the politician are two different persons) The definite article 'the' is used before each person.*

II) *The poet was also a politician was present. (This person who was a poet was also a politician, hence one person).*

17. . When a subject which is formed with two nouns joined by ‘and’, It clearly states two different ideas . So, it takes a plural verb.

My father and mother are teacher

Gold and silver are rare metals.

But the nouns in the following subject suggest one idea to the mind . they actually refer to the same thing . so the verb is singular .

- i) *Time and tide waits for no one.*
- ii) *Bread and butter is whole some food .*
- iii) *The rise and fall happens in every days life.*
- iv) *Slow and steady wins the race .*
- v) *The horse and carriage is at the door.*

18. When the adjective is used as a noun is “ the + adjective “ structure , it represents a class , for Example : -

“ The rich ’ = all rich people

The poor = all poor people

The blind = all blind persons.

So, the subject in “ the + adjective ” structure takes a plural verb.

- i) *The rich have no sympathy for the poor .*
- The poor are growing poorer .*
- The blind need our help and support.*

19. Sometimes , the subject of a sentence contains two nouns connected by the following phrases:

as well as , in addition to,

along with , together with,

rather than, more than,

besides, as much as,

- i) When both the nouns are singular, the subject takes a singular verb.
- ii) When one of the nouns is singular and the other one is plural , the verb agrees with the first noun which comes before the connecting phrase.

The manager as well as the accountant is responsible for the loss in the business. (both the nouns are singular)

- i) *The man , together with his children , is standing at the door.*
(The first noun, man , is singular)
- ii) *The children along with their father are standing at the door.*
(The first noun “children” is plural).

20. In case of Not only -----but also , the verb agrees with the nearest noun
(Which comes after but also), .

Not only Sangeeta but also her friends are coming .

Not only the students but also the teacher is working in the garden.

ACTIVITY-1

Read the following pairs of sentences . Tick (✓) against the correct sentence and cross out (×) the incorrect ones. The first pair is done for you.

1.(a) Neither you nor I are married.	×
(b) Neither you or I am married.	✓
2.(a) one of my friends are living in America.	
(b) One of my friends is living in America.	
3.(a) Scientists says that there are aliens.	
(b) Scientists say that there are aliens.	
4. (a) Researchers believe that there are specific genes through which parental qualities are transferred to the children.	
(b) Researchers believe that there is specific genes through which parental qualities are transferred to the children.	
5. (a) Why cancer cells in human body turns wild are not known to the scientists.	
(b) Why cancer cells in human body turns wild is not known to the scientists	
6 . (a) There are people who look at others who live miserably.	
(b) There is people who look at others who live miserably.	
7 . (a) This is a project where a lot of money has been spent.	
(b) This is a project where a lot of money have been spent.	
8 . (a) The story concerning the misfortunes of Rama and Sita in a forest for fourteen years is very tragic.	
(b) The story concerning the misfortunes of Rama and Sita in a forest for fourteen years are very tragic.	

ACTIVITY-2

Read the following telephone conversation and underline the errors in subject –verb concord where ever you find them. Write the correct verb form in place of the incorrect ones.

Sachin : Hello Kajal ! How is you ?

Kajal : Hi Sachin ! I are doing fine. How are you doing ?

Sachin : I are good . What is your plans for the coming Dasahara ? we has a long vacation .

Kajal : Oh yes, you are right ! Let us done something together , shall we make a quick trip to puri? It is a beautiful city and the beaches there is attractive. shall we ask Aswin, Rahul, Amit, and Shubha to joins us?

Sachin : I think Aswin and Amit is busy preparing for annual examination . I does not think they can come . still, let's try to convince them, what do you think?.

Kajal: Yeah sure. Call shobha, Aswin and Amit and ask them if they wants to join us. If they has interest , then all four of you come over to my place is the evening and we will books tickets and rooms in a hotel.

Kajal : Bye.

ACTIVITY-3

Fill in the blanks with correct verb form.

- i) He who ----- (is/are) my friend should always help me.
- ii) You who -----(is/are) my friend should not doubt me.
- iii) Two pairs of Scissors ----- (Was/were) bought .
- iv) There ----- (is/are) no doubt that Mahatma Gandhi was a man of truth and he practiced non-violence.
- v) The Majority of people ----- (has/have) supported the decision to set up a hospital here.
- vi) The audience ----- (is/are) requested to take their seats.
- vii) Either he or I -----(has/have) done this thing
- viii) The old ----- (is/are) generally respected
- ix) I wish ----- (are/were) a three legged horse.
- x) Govinda as well as his two sister ----- (was /were) present

- xi) Neither Sujata nor her friends ----- (is/are) coming
- xii) You are the man who ----- (is/are) guilty
- xiii) The bats man as well as the wicket keeper ----- (Was/were) injured.
- xiv) Not only she but also her brothers ----- (is/are) lawyers.
- xv) The large part of the land ----- (is/are) uncultivated.
- xvi) Anamika along with her friends ----- (has/have) gone to the city park.
- xvii) That the sun is bigger than the earth ----- (is/are) not accepted by my grand father.
- xviii) Thunder and lightning ----- (go/goes) together
- xix) Much of the rain water ----- (is/are) wasted.
- xx) Small patches of cloud ----- (is/are) seen in the sky.

ACTIVITY-4

Supply a verb in agreement with its subject in the following sentence.

1. Generating ideas ----- very important before writing.
2. One thousand rupees ----- too much this pen
3. The police ----- arrested the thieves
4. Each of the criminals ----- been arrested
5. The News ----- conveyed to the members telephonically .
6. A good man and a politician ----- invited to the debate yesterday
7. To promise and to forget later ----- nothing but dishonesty
8. The house owner , with the tenants , ----- left the house after the incident.
9. English as well as Sanskrit , ----- taught in this school
10. My friend and mentor ----- not come yet.
11. Either he or I ----- mistake
12. Each of these things ----- available in market.
13. Mathematics and Economics ----- taught here.
14. Everyone of the students ----- present in the laboratory.
15. A number of woman stickers ----- detained by the lady police.
16. One dozen of eggs ----- sixty rupees.
17. The jury ----- divided in their opinion .
18. The number of boys ----- more than that of the girls in this schools.
19. Either of the boys ----- got the prize
20. Neither of the books ----- interesting
21. Neither you nor I ----- there at that time.
22. Every man and woman of the village ----- present at the festival
23. Three hour ----- a long time to wait
24. Bread and butter ----- his favorite food
25. A lot of people ----- complained

26. Neither life nor property ----- forever
27. The Headmaster and secretary of the school ----- coming
28. One of the children ----- crying
29. "Two Pilgrims" ----- staged last evening
30. He and his friend ----- already left the place.

ACTIVITY-5

Rewrite the following passage by correcting the errors of concord.

The underdeveloped countries of the world face the population – food crisis. Each year food production in these countries are decreasing where as the population are growing rapidly. As a result, people goes to bed hungry of course, there is temporary or local solution of these problems, But mass starvation are unavoidable. The rich is going richer Nobody complain it. But the sad thing are that the poor is getting poorer. The majority of them is children. This picture of the undeveloped countries make as unhappy.