Most basic sentences have one subject at the beginning of a sentence followed by a verb. Since the subject and verb are often next to each other, it is easy to check for subject-verb agreement.

- **Amy** (singular subject) wants (singular verb form) to go bowling.
- Her **parents** (plural subject) want (plural verb form) to go bowling with her.

The subject and the verb must match in terms of number.

- If the subject of the sentence is singular, then the verb must also be singular. *(John likes pizza.)*
- If the subject is plural, then the verb must be plural. *(His friends like pizza, too.)*

When the subject and the verb don’t agree, a sentence may look like this:

- Wrong: Most **students** (plural subject) takes (singular verb) four courses.
- Right: Most **students** (plural subject) take (plural verb) four courses.

If a sentence contains a compound (more than one) subject connected by **AND**, it needs a **plural** verb:

- **Harry and Earl spend** most of their time teasing their friends.
- The **cats and dogs** in her home rarely **fight**.

If a sentence has a compound subject connected by **OR**, **NOR**, **BUT**, **EITHER…OR**, **NEITHER…NOR**, or **NOT ONLY…BUT ALSO** the verb must agree with the subject nearest to it.

- Either the **cats** or **the dog** wakes me up. (A singular verb is needed because dog is singular.)
- Anna or her **brothers** feed the pets each morning. (A plural verb is needed because brothers are plural.)

Use a **singular** verb when a sentence has an indefinite pronoun, such as: **EACH**, **EITHER**, **NEITHER**, **ONE**, **EVERYONE**, **EVERYBODY**, **EVERYTHING**, **SOMEONE**, **SOMEBODY**, **ANYBODY**, **ANYTHING**, **NOBODY**, and **ANOTHER**.

- **Everyone** in John’s family **likes** pizza.
- **Nobody knows** the answer to the question.
- **Everyone wants** to travel over the break.

In order to avoid making mistakes in subject-verb agreement, review the differences between singular and plural subjects and verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I walk.</td>
<td>We walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You walk.</td>
<td>You walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/She/It walk.</td>
<td>They walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe walks.</td>
<td>Joe and Sue walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The child walks.</td>
<td>The children walk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A **verb** ending in **s** is **singular**; many **nouns** ending in **s** are **plural**.