

8

Subject-Verb Agreement

When you write a sentence you must make sure that the **subject** and the **verb** agree.

If the subject is a **singular noun**, or the pronoun **he**, **she** or **it**, you need a **singular verb**.



She **enjoys** music.



She **shares** her books with her friends.

The zookeeper **is feeding** the animals.

The children **are playing** on the swings.

The earth **moves** round the sun.

Dad always **drives** to work.

The clerk **is wrapping** a package.

Does everyone **know** the answer?

Mom **has bought** a dress for Sara.



It **is snowing**.

Use a **plural verb** if the subject is a **plural noun**, or the pronoun **we**, **you** or **they**.



The two girls always **walk** home together.



All birds **lay** eggs.



The children are **playing** on the swing.

The stars **shine** brightly on a clear night.
Mom and Dad **love** us a lot.
Do you all **know** the words?
We **have finished** our game of tennis.
They **have** both **worked** very hard.

Collective nouns may be used with either **singular** or **plural** verbs. If the group members are all acting together as one, use a singular verb. If the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.



The audience **are laughing**.



The band **is playing**.

Singular

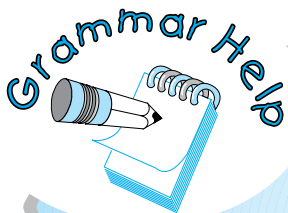
That family has moved to Texas.
The team is coached by Mr. Clark.

Plural

The family were giving their opinions.
The team are sharing new ideas.



Our team **has won**.



Some plural nouns, such as **people, cattle, police**, don't end with **-s**. Always use a **plural verb** with these nouns. For example:

People **like** to be praised.

The cattle **are** in the field.

The police **have caught** the thief.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 I always _____ to school with my brother. (go)
- 2 Mark always _____ to school with his brother. (go)
- 3 You _____ the answer. (know)
- 4 Luis _____ the answer, too. (know)
- 5 This book _____ very few drawings. (have)
- 6 These books _____ lots of beautiful drawings. (have)
- 7 Anne _____ my sister. (be)
- 8 Pat and Alice _____ good at English. (be)

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 A tiger _____. (roar)
- 2 All birds _____ eggs. (lay)
- 3 Dad _____ listening to music. (like)
- 4 Uncle Bob _____ his car every day. (wash)
- 5 She _____ all the answers. (know)
- 6 There _____ twelve months in a year. (be)
- 7 The twins often _____. (fight)
- 8 Our parents _____ us. (love)