

VERB II

SUB-VERB AGREEMENT

1. Verb-number agreement

Singular subjects take singular verbs and plural subjects take plural verbs.

- ❑ Even **an animal** has its own territory.
- ❑ Even **animals** **have** **their** own territory.

2. Subjects joined by 'AND' are usually plural and take plural verbs.

- ❑ His laptop **and** my iPad **were** stolen from the desk.
- ❑ Chennai **and** Kolkata **have** very hot weather.

3. If the subject has **two singular nouns connected by AND; and both are about the same person / thing, then the **verb remains singular**.**

- ☐ My best friend **and** roommate **is** going to US for a vacation.
- ☐ Soup **and** bread **is** our Sunday breakfast.

4. When two subjects connected by AND are preceded by 'each, every or many', a singular verb is used.

- ☐ **Every** chair, table, sofa and every single piece of furniture in the house is up for auction.
- ☐ **Every** man and woman in the store is requested to go through the security check.

5. Rule for 'with, together with, along with, besides, as well as, including, in addition to'

In presence of words like 'with, together with, along with, besides, as well as, including, in addition to, etc. verb depends on first subject.

- ☐ **The television, along with the cabinet, is to be sold.**
- ☐ **Our chief competitor, as well as we is obliged to increase the prices**

6. If the subject is made up of both singular and plural words connected by or, nor, either – or, neither – nor, not only, but also then the verb agrees with the nearer part of the subject.

- ☐ **Neither the quality nor the prices have changed.**
- ☐ **Neither the prices nor the quality has changed.**

7. When a group acts as a unit, the verb should be singular.

- ☐ The **committee has** agreed to submit its report on Friday.
- ☐ The **board of directors meets** once in a month.

8. When the members of the group are thought of as acting separately, the verb should be plural.

- ☐ The **teams are arguing** over who should be the captain (individual members in the team are arguing).
- ☐ The **committee were** not in agreement on the action to be taken.

9. Rules for 'The number'

The expression **'the number'** has a singular meaning and requires a singular verb, whereas the expression **'a number'** has a plural meaning and takes a plural verb.

☐ **The number** of board members **is** very small.

☐ **A number** of board members **were** absent.

10. Each, every, either, neither

The words 'each, every, either, neither', used as pronouns or else adjectives, are always singular and require singular verbs.

☐ **Each of them does have** political ambitions.

☐ **Each employee is** responsible for clearing his desk in the evening.

EXERCISE

1. (a) Walking along the/ (b) bank of the river/ (c) the road began to rise./ (d) No error.
2. (a) It is time you/ (b) decide on your next/ (c) course of action ./ (d) No error.
3. (a) As I was feeling sleepy/ (b) I asked for/ (c) a steamed cup of tea./ (d) No error.
4. (a) I have always/ (b) and will always/ (c) be faithful to you./ (d) No error.

5. (a) The lights went out/ (b) while we/ (c) took the examination./ (d) No error.

6. (a) His assistants have and/ (b) are still doing/ (c) excellent work for the organization./ (d) No error

7. (a) After the teacher had told the boys/ (b) how to pronounce the word/ (c) all of them in one voice repeated the word again ./ (d) No error

8. (a) The company is not doing well./ (b) Isn't it time you/ (c) sell off your shares in it?./ (d) No error

9. (a) He caught the boy/ (b) steal/ (c) the parcel./ (d) No error.
10. (a) I declined the invitation/ (b) not because I did not want to go,/ (c) but because I have no time./ (d) No error
11. (a) It is a known fact/ (b) that time does not return back/ (c) once it is lost./ (d) No error.
12. (a) Even after sixty years of independence/ (b) lakhs of people/ (c) do not have bed to sleep./ (d) No error.
13. (a) The dinosaurs could not/ (b) adapt to the/ (c) changing environment./ (d) No error

14. (a) The students were/ (b) looking forward to/ (c) meet the eminent scientist./ (d) No error

15. (a) The lady made the/ (b) little boy to wash/ (c) all the clothes./ (d) No error.

16. (a) We must get this letter/ (b) send/ (c) as soon as possible./ (d) No error

17. (a) Neither of them/ (b) are going to attend/ (c) the party on 10th October./ (d) No error

18. (a) He walked five miles which are really a great distance/ (b) for a man like him who (c) is not only old but also ill./ (d) No error

19. (a) Either my colleague/ (b) or a peon are coming home/ (c) with the material today./ (d) No error

20. (a) The rise and fall/ **(b)** of the tide are due/ **(c)** to lunar influence./
(d) No error

21. (a) Many a man/ **(b)** have succumbed/ **(c)** to this temptation./ **(d)** No error

22. (a) The introduction of tea, coffee/ **(b)** and such other beverages/
(c) have not been without some effect./ **(d)** No error

Thank
you

