

Lesson 1.1.1 Subject-Verb Agreement

Verbs must agree in number with the subject of the sentence. If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, make sure to use a plural verb.

The shirt *fits* just right.

The movies *were* sold out.

If the subject is a **compound subject**, two or more subjects, connected by the word *and*, then a plural verb is needed.

Erika and Chris *photograph* the birds. Erika *photographs* the birds.

If the subject is a compound subject connected by the words *or* or *nor*, then the verb will agree with the subject that is closer to the verb.

Neither Wanita nor Susan *likes* chocolate pie. (Susan likes)

Do Wanita or her sisters *like* chocolate pie? (sisters like)

If the subject and the verb are separated by a word or words, be sure that the verb still agrees with the subject.

Susan, as well as her coworkers, *wants* to complete the project. (Susan wants)

If the subject is a **collective noun**, a singular word that represents a group, like *family* and *team*, then a singular verb is generally used.

The family *is* ready to go.

The team *runs* one mile every day.

When using the phrases *there is*, *there are*, *here is*, and *here are*, make sure that the subjects and verbs agree.

There is one piece of pizza left.

Here is the right path to take.

There are many pieces left.

Here are the bikes we're supposed to use.

Complete It

Circle the correct verb for each sentence.

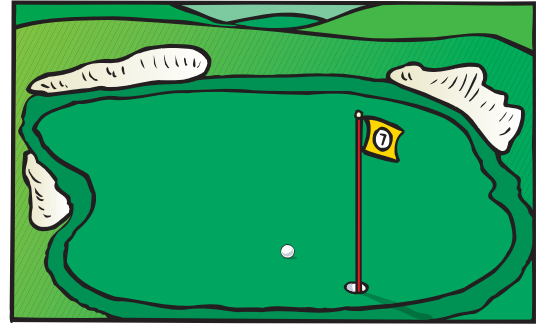
1. Troy (help, helps) his sister with her homework after school.
2. Troy and Billy (help, helps) their sister with her homework after school.
3. Do Sally or her brothers (bike, bikes) to school?
4. There (is, are) one store that I like at that mall.
5. Here (is, are) the books on that subject.

Lesson 1.11 Subject-Verb Agreement

Proof It

Proofread the following paragraph, correcting the subject-verb agreement mistakes as you go. Use the proofreading key to mark the mistakes and insert the correction.

e - deletes words or letters
 ^ - inserts words or letters



Tiger Woods' real first name is Eldrick, and he were born on December 30, 1975. Fans all over the world salutes him as one of the greatest golfers of all time. He became a professional golfer in 1996. In 2001, Tiger held all four professional major championships at one time, the first golfer ever to do so. He were also the first golfer of African American or Asian descent to win a major championship. No sportsperson have ever been awarded Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year twice—except Tiger. Tiger and his father started the Tiger Woods Foundation. The foundation support community-based programs that promote health, education, and welfare for children. So, how did Tiger gets his nickname? Tiger were named after a Vietnamese soldier who was a friend of his father. Tiger's father had given the same nickname to his friend.

Try It

Write a paragraph with four sentences about your favorite sport. Be sure that the subjects and verbs agree.
