

RULES OF GRAMMAR

Main Rule: Plural subjects take plural verbs and singular subjects take singular verbs.

Generally, **singular verbs have an “s”** whereas **plural verbs do not have an “s”**.

Rule 1: When two or more nouns are present, ask the verb to agree with its proper subject instead of the noun near it.

- The **quality** of content in spiritual books **is** outstanding.
- **All the books** on the table **are** the biology books.

Rule 2: When the verb separates two or more subjects with **either / or** or **neither / nor**, use a singular verb if the last subject is singular and a plural verb if the last subject is plural.

- **Either** President **or** his **representatives are** to stop the corruption in the country.
- **Neither** the players **nor** the **coach is** responsible for the loss.



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Rule 3: When singular subjects are joined by “**and**”, they form a pair (plural).

- Ram **and** Shyam **are** playing a guitar.

Rule 4: If nouns suggest one idea to the mind, or refer to same person or thing, then the verb would be singular.

- **Time and tide waits** for none.
- **Bread and butter is** kept in the refrigerator.

Rule 5: Everyone, no one, anybody, somebody, everything, each and every, each of, neither of, the majority of, all of, some of and uncountable nouns are always singular in sense and must be used with singular verbs.

- **All of** meal **is** stolen.
- **Each** of the mangoes **is** ripe.

Rule 6: Economics, Civics, Statistics, News, Mathematics, Wages, Linguistics, Phonetics, Politics, etc. are always plural in form but singular in meaning and always take a singular verb.

- **Economics is** his passion.
- **Politics is** the major part of the selection process.

Rule 7: When there is a group of nouns (Collective nouns), use a singular verb. When the individuals of this group are addressed, use plural verb.

- The **crowd is** astonishing.
- The **members** of the team **were** unhappy.

Rule 8: When the noun denotes some specific quantity or amount considered as a whole, we should agree on a singular verb.

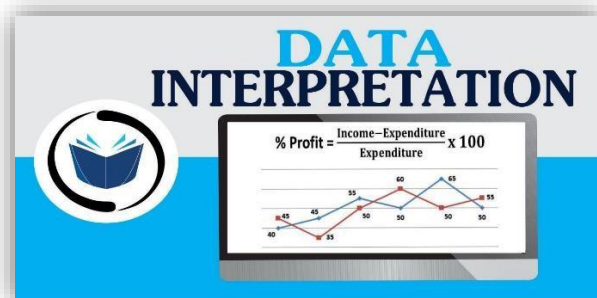
- **One – third** of the work **is** completed by Ram.
- The **five thousand rupees** that you gave me **was** spent in a single day.

Rule 9: The words and phrases besides ‘and’ that attach themselves to the subject and make it look plural but the subject still stays the same. For example – ‘as well as’, ‘accompanied by’, ‘including’, ‘along with’, ‘in addition to’, and ‘together with’. So be cautious!

Prime Minister, along with his Cabinet of Ministers, **is** going to attend the meeting tomorrow.

Rule 10: When the subject is commanding, ordering or suggesting “you”, the person being directed by the subject has to disappear. (**Subject expects itself to be understood**)

- (**You**) Listen to the sound of the crowd!
- (**You**) Shut the door!



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Rule 11: Sometimes nouns trick you into thinking they are plural when they are not. Nouns such as pants, pliers, glasses and scissors are regarded as plural (and prefer being with plural verbs) unless they are preceded by the phrase “a pair of”. So be extremely cautious!

- The **scissors are** lying on the desk.
- **A pair of scissors is** lying on the desk.

Rule 12: If the sentence has subjects with both positive and negative sense, the verb will respond only to the subject giving positive vibes.

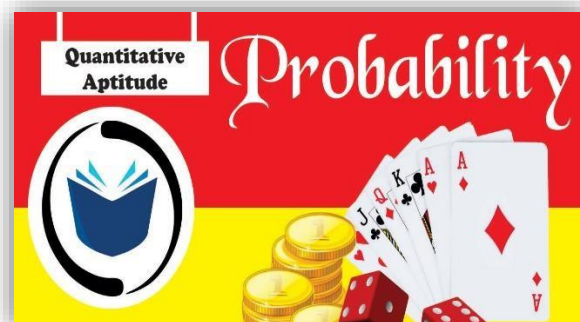
- It is not Geeta but her **sisters who are** married.
- It was the **subject of the play**, not the actors, that **has** charmed the audience.

Rule 13: With words that indicate portions – percent, fraction, part, majority, some, all, none, remainder and so forth – look at the noun in your phrase (object of the preposition) to determine whether to use a singular or plural verb. If the object of the preposition is singular, use a singular verb. If the object of the preposition is plural, use a plural verb.

- Forty percent of the **chair is** made of plastic.
- Fifty percent of the **chairs are** made of plastic.

Rule 14: The expression ‘the number’ is followed by a singular verb while the expression ‘a number’ is followed by a plural verb

- **The number** of workers we need to hire for the project **is** thirteen.
- **A number** of workers **have** written about their complaints in the complaint register.



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