

Grammar: 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**. Examples:

She **enjoys** music.

He **shares** his books with his friends.

It is snowing.

The zookeeper **is feeding** the animals.

Mom always **drives** to work.

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

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

All birds **lay** eggs.

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

Mom and dad **love** us a lot.

Collective nouns may be used with either **singular** or **plural verbs**. Examples:

| Correct Use | Incorrect Use |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The band is playing . | The band are playing. |
| Our team has won . | Our team have won. |
| The audience is laughing . | The audience are laughing. |
| The family has moved to Texas. | The family have moved to Texas. |

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

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. Mark always _____ to school with his sister. (go)
2. You _____ the answer to the question. (know)
3. Louis _____ the answer , too. (know)
4. This book _____ very few drawings. (have)
5. These books _____ lots of beautiful drawings. (have)
6. Anna _____ my sister. (be)
7. 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.

8. A tiger _____ . (roar)
9. Joey _____ listening to music. (likes)
10. Uncle Bob _____ his car every day. (wash)
11. She _____ all the answers. (know)
12. Our parents _____ us. (love)