

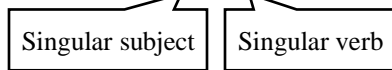


## Writing Centre

### Subject-Verb Agreement

**The Basic Rule:** Singular subjects have singular verbs and plural subjects have plural verbs.

*Example 1:* Jason walks to the store.



*Example 2:* The brothers walk to the store.



#### Other Examples:

1. When connecting nouns with “of”, the noun before “of” is the subject:

*Example 1:* The bag of groceries is on the table.



*Example 2:* The bags of groceries are on the table.



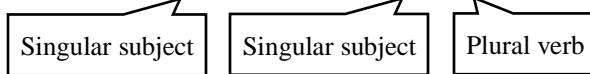
Exception: When using expressions that indicate portions (“some of”, “half of”, etc.), the verb matches the noun after “of”.

*Example 1:* Most of the people want to go home.

*Example 2:* Some of the cake is gone.

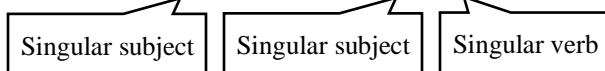
2. Two subjects joined by “and” have a plural verb:

*Example:* The motorcycle and the car race down the road.

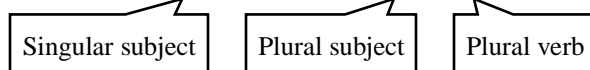


3. When including multiple subjects connected with “or” or “nor”, the verb matches the closest subject:

*Example 1:* The mother or the father makes supper each day.



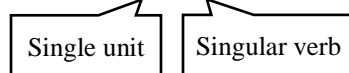
*Example 2:* Neither the mother nor her children want to take out the garbage.



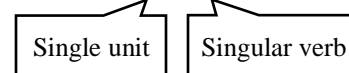
Note: If the sentence feels awkward, consider reordering your subjects or rephrasing the sentence.

4. Sometimes multiple items make up a single unit and thus use a singular verb. This is common with periods of time, amounts of money, and measures of distance:

*Example 1:* Forty-five minutes is a long wait.



*Example 2:* Ten dollars is a fair price.



5. With “here” or “there”, the verb matches the noun after the verb.

*Example 1:* There are the documents.



*Example 2:* Here is a pencil.

