Subject-Verb Agreement

(Some reminders)

😊
6-1  Final –s / -es: Use, Pronunciation and Spelling

1. Plural Nouns:

   The students are excited about summer vacation.

2. Simple present verbs with a singular subject:

   The mail carrier delivers mail.

Which do you forget most often?
6-1 Final –s / -es:
Use, Pronunciation and Spelling

- Most words, add –s: 
  adds, walks, desks, months,

- For words that end in –sh, -ch, -s, z, and –x, add –es:
  matches, wishes, passes, blitizes, foxes

- a) For words that end in vowel+y, add –s: 
  joys, boys, lays, ploys

- b) For words that end in consonant+y, change the y to i and add -es:
  try → tries, fly → flies, sty → sties
The pronunciation of the final -s depends on the sound preceding it.

<table>
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<th>voiceless = /s/</th>
<th>voiced = /z/</th>
<th>“sh,” “ch,” “s,” “x,” “z,” “ge” = /әz/</th>
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How are these words pronounced?
Basic Subject Verb Agreement

- John drives his new car too fast.
- John and his brother drive their new car too fast.
- John, his brother and their cousin drive their new car too fast.

Explain why a plural or singular verb is used for each example.
Basic Subject Verb Agreement, continued

Every student wants to succeed.
Each student wants to succeed.

Every teacher and student is looking forward to summer.
Each teacher and student is looking forward to summer.

The technology in the classrooms is impressive.
The technology that our supervisors want us to use is very easy to learn.

Getting along with people is not always easy.
Riding my bike for 100 miles is something I’ve always wanted to do.
The number of books in the library is too high.

The number of sick people in the village has increased drastically.

(A number of) patients have been admitted to the hospital.

A number of cars in the garage have been transferred to another garage.
The number of mothers who had babies was surprising.

A number of cars are fast.

The number of parents who don't take care of their children is surprising.

A number of movie stars are American.
Subject-Verb Agreement: Using Expressions of Quantity

Some of this chapter is easy to understand.
Some of these chapters are easy to understand.

About half of the cookies have been eaten.
About half of the cake has been eaten.

One of my favorite books is Catcher in the Rye.
Every one of my students works hard.
Each of my children wants more toys.

None of my students have brought me an apple.
None of my students has brought me an apple.

The number of stars in the sky is impossible to count.
A number of students are looking at me right now.

What's the difference?

why singular verbs?

Which is correct?
Some people like boats.
A few people like boats.
Each person likes boats.
All people like boats.
Half of the students like boats.
Most of them
Most people like boats.
Most of the people in the room
like boats.
Most of people
the most difficult
test is #2.
Subject-Verb Agreement: Using *There* + *Be*

Choose the correct verb:

There is / are an *pencil* on the floor. Is it yours?

*There was / were a good reason* for my absence.

There was / were *about 200 people* at the dance last night.

There is / are *no windows* in this classroom.

*There’s 20 computers* in this room.

*There's alot of cars* in the parking lot.

Have you heard sentences like this? Are they wrong?
Subject-Verb Agreement:
Using There + Be

Ask your neighbor about the existence / quantity of the following things using there + be, use the appropriate tense:

**Example:** test at the end of class
Will there be a test at the end of class?

**Example:** how many tests since the quarter began
How many tests have there been since the quarter began?
Subject-Verb Agreement: Using *There + Be*

Make a list of things that you like and don’t like about MCC. Use *there + be* for every sentence.

*Examples:* There isn’t enough parking. There isn’t enough time for lunch between my classes. There are many books in the library. There are so many wonderful teachers here.😊
What's right and wrong with MCC?

There are many opportunities.
There are a lot of programs.

Pros:
- There are students from all over the world.
- There are large facilities and good teachers.
- There's security. There are enough resources to be used by students...
- There are many discussions in class.
- There are (So) many computers.
- There are many students from different countries.
- There are a lot of resources to take.
- There are many opportunities to take.
- There are good students in this class.
- There are many chairs in this room.
- There is comfortable furniture.
- There are good teachers.
• There isn’t a way to communicate activities to students.
• There is a limited number of students in classes.
• There are no sports activities for students.
• There are not enough parking lots.
• There is a strict insurance policy for intl students.
• It is a little bit expensive.
• There are no windows in the classroom.
• There is no national anthem on the wall or flag.
• There isn’t enough coffee.
Subject-Verb Agreement:
Using *There + Be*

Make *there + be* questions with these prompts:

- how many wars in the history of the world
- how many U.S. presidents before Obama became president
- how many tests by the time the quarter is finished
- computers in the ARC in 1991 (*yes / no, not how many*)
- high unemployment rate in Omaha this month
- more women than men at MCC in 2015
- anything to eat in your backpack
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

Choose the correct verb:

The United States is / are my home.
The Netherlands is / are a very beautiful country.
The United Nations has / have many member countries.
The United Arab Emirates is / are located on the Arabian peninsula.
Sears sells / sell both lawnmowers and jewelry.

The Philippines is a lovely place.

Some proper nouns that end in –s are singular.

Can you think of any more?
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

The news about the tornadoes in Kansas was / were upsetting.

Physics is / are taught by Kendra.
Mathematics is / are taught by Andrea.
Math / Maths is / are required for all students.

Do you think economics is an interesting subject?

Diabetes is / are becoming more and more common in the U.S.

Do you know the names of other diseases that end in –s?
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

Three hours of sleep is / are not enough.
Ten dollars is / are more than enough to have lunch in the Food Court.
Ten miles is / are too far to walk to school every day.

Expressions of time, money and distance usually require a singular verb.

Eight hours of sleep is enough.

How many hours of sleep is enough for you?
How much money too much to pay for a pair of shoes?
How many miles is too far to commute between school and home?
Thirty minutes is not too long to drive to school.
Fifty miles is too far.
Fifty dollars is too much to pay for a pair of shoes.
A thousand is too much!
999 is OK!
Twenty dollars is too much to pay to see a movie.
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

How are these equations read?

3 + 4 = 7
6 \times 9 = 54
100 \div 5 = 20
99 - 98 = 1
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

The [people in the picture] is / are waiting in line to buy food.

The police has / have arrested a suspect and are questioning him right now.

There is / are more cattle than people in Iowa.

Fish makes / make good pets for kids who live in apartments.

Some plural nouns do not end in -s, but they still require plural verbs.
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

The French is / are very proud of their culture.
The French is / are the language I studied in college.
The English is / are famous for their tea.
The English has / have many exceptions to its rules.
The poor gets / get poorer and the rich gets / get richer.
The living mourns / mourn the dead.
The young does not / do not respect the elderly.
Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities

Write sentences with the following words as subjects:

- Japanese (the language)...
- The Japanese (the people)...
- The rich...
- The U.S....
- $1 million dollars...
- The police....
- Politics....