Subjects and Verbs Must Agree

You already know that nouns, pronouns, and verbs can show number; that is, they can be singular or plural.

Subjects and verbs must agree in number.

If the subject is singular, the verb must be singular.

singular singular
My cat purrs when I pet her.

singular singular
She is a Persian cat.

If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural.

plural plural
My cats purr when I pet them.

plural plural
They are Persian cats.

- Verbs ending in *-s* are singular. Study the singular and plural forms of the following verbs.

Singular	Plural
(he) *is*	(they) are
(he) *does*	(they) do
(he) *was*	(they) were
(he) *has*	(they) have
(he) *goes*	(they) go

- The contractions *isn't, doesn't, wasn't*, and *hasn't* are singular.
- The contractions *aren't, don't, weren't,* and *haven't* are plural.
- The pronoun *I* usually takes the plural form of the verb; the pronoun *you* always takes the plural form of the verb.
- Compound subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb.

  Language and geography are my favorite subjects.

Do They Agree?

Think A *Identify these pronouns as singular (S) or plural (P).*

_____ 1. he
_____ 2. ours
_____ 3. they
_____ 4. my
_____ 5. its
_____ 6. us
_____ 7. I
_____ 8. mine
_____ 9. them
_____ 10. his
_____ 11. theirs
_____ 12. it
_____ 13. me
_____ 14. we
_____ 15. him

Think B *Identify these contractions as singular (S) or plural (P).*

_____ 1. don't
_____ 2. isn't
_____ 3. aren't
_____ 4. wasn't
_____ 5. doesn't
_____ 6. weren't

Think C *Would these subjects take singular (S) or plural (P) verbs?*

_____ 1. Mom and Dad
_____ 2. maps
_____ 3. *Charlotte's Web*
_____ 4. circus
_____ 5. children
_____ 6. you
_____ 7. women
_____ 8. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella
_____ 9. piano
_____ 10. George Washington

Practicing with Pronouns and Agreement

Think A ***Cross out the incorrect form.***

1. I (do, does)
2. he (were, was)
3. you (weren't, wasn't)
4. she (is, are)
5. we (hasn't, haven't)
6. they (does, do)
7. it (was, were)
8. you (don't, doesn't)
9. I (has, have)
10. they (wasn't, weren't)

Think C ***For every verb below write a subjective case personal pronoun that would serve as a correct subject.***

Example: he doesn't

1. _____ don't
2. _____ was
3. _____ have
4. _____ weren't
5. _____ is
6. _____ aren't
7. _____ haven't
8. _____ wasn't
9. _____ isn't
10. _____ are
11. _____ do
12. _____ were