

# Subject/verb agreement

## - WITH PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES -

- Subject-verb agreement means that a subject and its verb must be both singular or plural: A singular subject takes a singular verb, but with a prepositional phrase.
- Subjects and verbs must AGREE with one another in number (singular or plural). Thus, if a subject is singular, its verb must also be singular; if a subject is a plural, its verb must also be plural.
- In the present tense, nouns and verbs form plurals in opposite ways: nouns add an s to the singular form; verbs REMOVE the s from the singular form.
- A prepositional phrase is composed of: a preposition followed by a noun or pronoun object. The prepositional phrase can be either a noun, gerund, or clause. Some prepositions are: *in, at, on, under, next to, for, over, of, up, etc.*
- The verb of a sentence must always agree with the subject of the sentence, not with the object of a preposition.  
**Example:** Under the tree **are** several flowers (In this case, the verb must be plural "are" because the subject "flowers" is plural)
- Consequently, the subject of a sentence is never contained in a prepositional phrase.
- Sometimes, prepositional phrases come between the subject and verb of a sentence.

**Example:** The boy at the door **is** my brother.

When prepositional phrases come between the subject and verb, it can lead you to choose the incorrect verb form.

**Example:** The players on the baseball team **were** disappointed.

- A prepositional phrase merely adds information to the subject, but it does not change whether the noun is singular or plural.

**Example:** The engineer at the controls **is** working hard.

### FIRST SERIES: Select the correct verb

1. Relaxation, along with good food,   improved her health.
2. The bush of roses   lovely next to the fence.
3. The doctor, together with his nurses,   attending a conference.
4. Sounds of music (float / floats) throughout the neighborhood. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jungkook, together with Jimin, (sings/ sing) the alto part of the song. \_\_\_\_\_

### SECOND SERIES: Find the error and write the sentence correctly.

1. The engineer at the control are working hard.

2. The secretaries in the pool does a lot of typing.

3. A convoy of trucks are roaring down the dirt road.

4. Students who major in nursing has great employment prospects.

5. A dealer in rare books were asked to look at the collection of novels to ensure the authenticity.