

این فایل، ابتدا شامل یک خلاصه‌ی کاربردی و فشرده است که توسط تیم تست‌هلپر تهیه شده و مهم‌ترین نکات گرامری را به صورت ساده، منظم و امتحان‌محور مرور می‌کند.

پس از این بخش، قسمت‌های مرتبط با همین مبحث از کتاب‌های **Grammar in Use Intermediate** و **Grammar in Use Advanced** نیز در فایل قرار داده شده‌اند تا زبان‌آموزان در صورت نیاز بتوانند توضیحات کامل‌تر، مثال‌های بیشتر و تمرین‌های تکمیلی را مطالعه کنند.

Quick Guide: Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement means the verb must match the subject. A **singular subject** takes a singular verb, and a **plural subject** takes a plural verb.

Examples:

- The cat **is** sleeping.
- The dogs **play** outside.
- She **smiles** when she sees her friends.

Main Uses

Use	Pattern	Example
Singular subject	singular subject + singular verb	The book is on the shelf.
Plural subject	plural subject + plural verb	The students are ready.
There structures	there + be + real subject	There is a dog under the tree.
Each / every / one	each/every/one + singular verb	Each student has a book.
Compound subject	A and B + plural verb	John and Mary run every morning.
Either / neither	verb agrees with nearest subject	Neither the manager nor the employees are available.
Collective noun	group as one unit = singular	The team is ready.
Quantity words	depends on countable/uncountable noun	Some of the money is missing.

Find the Real Subject

The verb agrees with the main subject, not the words between the subject and verb.

Examples:

- The list of guests **is** on the table.
- The cost of these items **is** high.
- The results of the experiments **are** impressive.

In these examples, the subject is **list**, **cost**, or **results**, not the noun after **of**.

Singular Words

Words like **each**, **every**, **one**, **nobody**, **neither**, **either**, and **every one** usually take singular verbs.

Examples:

- Each of the boys **has** a bicycle.
- Nobody **is** late.
- Neither of the answers **is** correct.
- Every one of the students **is** on time.

Plural Words

Plural subjects take plural verbs.

Examples:

- Many people **study** here.
- Several students **have** finished.
- Both of the answers **are** acceptable.
- The reports that were submitted **are** incomplete.

Tricky Quantity Expressions

Use **a number of + plural noun + plural verb**.

Example:

- A number of students **are** absent.

Use **the number of + plural noun + singular verb**.

Example:

- The number of students **is** increasing.

With **some**, **all**, **most**, **none**, **fractions**, and **percentages**, look at the noun after **of**.

Examples:

- Some of the money **is** missing.
- All of the cookies **are** gone.
- Two-thirds of the land **is** affected.

- Three-quarters of the cookies **were** missing.

Be Careful

Do not let extra phrases confuse you.

Incorrect: The list of names **are** on the door.

Correct: The list of names **is** on the door.

Incorrect: One of the students **are** absent.

Correct: One of the students **is** absent.

Also remember that **and** usually makes the subject plural.

Example:

- The team and its coach **are** ready to leave.

Before answering, ask yourself:

What is the real subject, and is it singular, plural, or a special quantity expression?

Singular and plural

A

Sometimes we use a *plural* noun for one thing that has two parts. For example:

				
trousers (<i>two legs</i>) also jeans/tights/shorts/pants	pyjamas (<i>top and bottom</i>)	glasses	binoculars	scissors

These words are plural, so they take a plural verb:

- ☐ My **trousers are** too long. (*not* My trousers is)

You can also use **a pair of** + these words:

- ☐ **Those are** nice **jeans**. or That's **a nice pair of** jeans. (*not* a nice jeans)
☐ I need **some** new **glasses**. or I need **a new pair of** glasses.

B

Some nouns end in **-ics**, but are not usually plural. For example:

athletics gymnastics economics politics
physics electronics maths (= mathematics)

- ☐ **Gymnastics is** my favourite sport. (*not* Gymnastics are)

News is not plural (see Unit 70B):

- ☐ I have **some news** for you. **It's** good news!

Some words that end in **-s** can be singular or plural. For example:

means a means of transport **many means** of transport
series a TV series **two TV series**
species a species of fish **200 species** of fish

C

Some singular nouns are often used with a plural verb. For example:

audience committee company family firm government staff team

These nouns are all groups of people. We often think of them as a number of people (= they), not as one thing (= it). So we often use a plural verb:

- ☐ **The government** (= they) **have decided** to increase taxes.
☐ **The staff** at the company (= they) **are** not happy with **their** working conditions.

In the same way, we often use a plural verb after the name of a company or a sports team:

- ☐ **Shell have** increased the price of petrol.
☐ **Italy are** playing Brazil next Sunday (in a football match).

You can also use a singular verb (The government **wants** ... / Shell **has** ... etc.).

We use a plural verb with **police**:

- ☐ **The police are** investigating the crime, but **haven't** arrested anyone yet.
(not The police is ... hasn't)

Note that we say **a police officer** / **a policeman** / **a policewoman** (*not* a police).

D

We do not often use the plural of **person** ('persons'). We normally use **people** (a *plural* word):

- ☐ He's **a nice person**. *but* They are nice **people**. (*not* nice persons)
☐ **Many people don't** have enough to eat. (*not* Many people doesn't)

E

We think of a sum of money, a period of time, a distance etc. as *one* thing. So we use a singular verb:

- ☐ **Fifty thousand pounds** (= it) **was** stolen in the robbery. (*not* were stolen)
☐ **Three years** (= it) **is** a long time to be without a job. (*not* Three years are)
☐ **Two miles isn't** very far to walk.

Exercises

79.1 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

- 1 My eyesight is getting worse. I need glasses.
- 2 The trousers you bought for me fit me.
- 3 The jacket you bought for me fit me.
- 4 I need scissors to cut this piece of material.
- 5 I can't find my binoculars. Have you seen?
- 6 I went shopping and bought a of jeans.
- 7 Where my sunglasses?
- 8 I went shopping and bought pair of pyjamas.
- 9 I don't know much about politics. I'm not interested in

a
are
them
doesn't
pair
it
~~glasses~~
some
don't

79.2 Complete the sentences. Use a word from section B (news, series etc.).

- 1 'Have you heard the news?' 'No. What's happened?'
- 2 The bicycle is a of transport.
- 3 A lot of American TV are shown in other countries.
- 4 The tiger is an endangered
- 5 There will be a of meetings to discuss the problem.
- 6 Fortunately the wasn't as bad as we expected.
- 7 How many of bird are there in the world?
- 8 I didn't have my phone, so I had no of contacting you.

79.3 Choose the correct form of the verb, singular or plural. In three sentences either the singular or plural verb is possible.

- 1 Gymnastics is / ~~are~~ my favourite sport. (is is correct)
- 2 My new glasses doesn't / don't fit very well.
- 3 The police want / wants to interview two men about the robbery.
- 4 Physics was / were my favourite subject at school.
- 5 It's a nice place to visit. The people is / are very friendly.
- 6 Germany is / are playing Spain tomorrow night. Are you going to watch it?
- 7 Does / Do the police know how the accident happened?
- 8 Where do / does your family live?
- 9 Most people enjoy / enjoys music.
- 10 I like this cafe. The staff here is / are really friendly and efficient.

79.4 Complete the sentences. Use **is** or **isn't**, and choose from the box.

- 1 Three years is a long time to be without a job.
- 2 Thirty degrees for Tom. He doesn't like hot weather.
- 3 Ten dollars We need more than that.
- 4 Four days for a holiday. You need at least a week.
- 5 Twenty kilos Are you sure you can manage?

a lot to carry
enough money
too hot
long enough
~~a long time~~

79.5 Are these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Three years are a long time to be without a job. Three years is a long time
- 2 The committee want to change the rules of the club. OK (wants is also correct)
- 3 Susan was wearing a black jeans.
- 4 I like Martin and Jane. They're very nice persons.
- 5 I'm going to buy some new pyjamas.
- 6 There was a police directing traffic in the street.
- 7 This scissors isn't very sharp.
- 8 The company have decided to open a new factory.
- 9 This plant is very rare species.
- 10 Twelve hours are a long time to be on a plane.

both / both of neither / neither of either / either of

A

We use **both/neither/either** for *two* things.

You can use these words with a *noun* (**both books**, **neither book** etc.).

For example, you are going out to eat. There are two possible restaurants. You say:

- ☐ **Both restaurants** are good. (*not* the both restaurants)
- ☐ **Neither restaurant** is expensive.
- ☐ We can go to **either restaurant**. I don't mind. (= one or the other, it doesn't matter which)
- ☐ I haven't been to **either restaurant** before. (= not one or the other)

You can also use **both/neither/either** without a noun:

- ☐ 'Which do you prefer, basketball or tennis?' 'It's hard to say. I like **both**.'
- ☐ 'Is your friend British or American?' '**Neither**. She's Australian.'
- ☐ 'Do you want tea or coffee?' '**Either**. I don't mind.'

B

both of ... / neither of ... / either of ...

We use **both of / neither of / either of + the/these/my/Tom's ...** etc. So we say 'both of **the** restaurants', 'both of **those** restaurants' etc. (*but not* both of restaurants):

- ☐ **Both of these** restaurants are good.
- ☐ **Neither of the** restaurants we went to was expensive.
- ☐ I haven't been to **either of those** restaurants.

You don't need **of** after **both**. So you can say:

- ☐ **Both of these** restaurants are good. *or* **Both these** restaurants are good.

We also use **both of / neither of / either of + us/you/them**:

- ☐ (*talking to two people*) Can **either of you** speak Russian?
- ☐ I asked two people how to get to the station, but **neither of them** knew.

We say '**both of**' before **us/you/them** (you need to use **of**):

- ☐ **Both of us** were tired. (*not* Both us were ...)

After **neither of ...** a verb can be singular or plural:

- ☐ Neither of them **is** at home. *or* Neither of them **are** at home.

C

You can say:

both ... and ...

- ☐ **Both** Chris **and** Paul were late.
- ☐ I was **both** tired **and** hungry when I arrived home.

neither ... nor ...

- ☐ **Neither** Chris **nor** Paul came to the party.
- ☐ There was an accident outside our house, but we **neither** saw **nor** heard anything.

either ... or ...

- ☐ I'm not sure where Maria's from. She's **either** Spanish **or** Italian.
- ☐ **Either** you apologise, **or** I'll never speak to you again.

D

Compare **either/neither/both** (two things) and **any/none/all** (more than two):

- ☐ There are **two** good hotels here.
You could stay at **either** of them.

- ☐ We tried **two** hotels.
{ **Neither** of them had a room.
 Both of them were full.

- ☐ There are **many** good hotels here.
You could stay at **any** of them.

- ☐ We tried **a lot of** hotels.
{ **None** of them had a room.
 All of them were full.

Exercises

89.1 Complete the sentences with **both/neither/either**.

- 1 'Do you want tea or coffee?' ' Either . I really don't mind.'
- 2 'What day is it today – the 18th or the 19th?' '.....'. It's the 20th.'
- 3 A: Where did you go on your trip – Korea or Japan?
B: We went to A week in Korea and a week in Japan.
- 4 'Shall we sit in the corner or by the window?' '.....'. I don't mind.'
- 5 'Where's Lisa? Is she at work or at home?' '.....'. She's away on holiday.'
- 6 'Is it true that Kate speaks Spanish and Arabic?' 'Yes, she speaks fluently.'

89.2 Complete the sentences with **both/neither/either**. Use **of** where necessary.

- 1 Both my parents are from Egypt.
- 2 To get to the town centre, you can walk along the river or you can go along the road.
You can go way.
- 3 I went to Carl's house twice, but times he wasn't at home.
- 4 Tom's parents is English. His father is Polish and his mother is Italian.
- 5 I saw an accident this morning. One car drove into the back of another. Fortunately
..... driver was injured, but cars were badly damaged.
- 6 I have two sisters and a brother. My brother is working, but my sisters are still at school.

89.3 Complete the sentences with **both/neither/either + of us / of them**.

- 1 I asked two people how to get to the station, but neither of them knew.
- 2 I was invited to two parties last week, but I couldn't go to
- 3 There were two windows in the room. It was very warm, so I opened
- 4 Sam and I often play tennis, but we're not very good. can play well.
- 5 I tried two bookshops for the book I wanted to buy, but had it.

89.4 Write sentences with **both ... and ... / neither ... nor ... / either ... or ...**.

- 1 Chris was late. So was Pat. Both Chris and Pat were late.
- 2 He didn't say hello, and he didn't smile. He neither said hello nor smiled.
- 3 It was a boring movie. It was long too.
The movie
- 4 Joe doesn't have a car. Sam doesn't have one either.
.....
- 5 Emily speaks German and she speaks Russian too.
.....
- 6 Ben doesn't watch TV and he doesn't read newspapers.
Ben
- 7 Is that man's name Richard? Or is it Robert? It's one of the two.
That man's name
- 8 I don't have time to go on holiday. And I don't have the money.
I have
- 9 We can leave today or we can leave tomorrow – whichever you prefer.
We

89.5 Complete the sentences with **neither/either/none/any**.

- 1 We tried a lot of hotels, but none of them had a room.
- 2 Sam has two sisters, but I haven't met of them.
- 3 Emily has four brothers, but I haven't met of them.
- 4 There were a few shops in the street, but of them was open.
- 5 Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey – have you been to of these countries?
- 6 I could meet you next Monday or Thursday. Would of those days suit you?
- 7 Mark and I couldn't get into the house because of us had a key.

A everybody/everyone/everything and all

We say:

- ☐ **Everybody** was happy. or **Everyone** was happy. (*not* all were happy)
- ☐ He thinks he knows **everything**. (*not* knows all)
- ☐ Our holiday was a disaster. **Everything** went wrong. (*not* all went wrong)

We do not often use **all** *alone* in this way. We do not say 'all were happy', 'he knows all' etc.

We use **all** in the following ways:

all + noun (**all cars**, **all my money** etc.)

all of + **us/you/them**

we/you/they ... all ... (see also Unit 110D)

all about ...

all ... = the only thing(s)

☐ **All my friends** were happy.

☐ **All of us** were happy.

☐ **We** were **all** happy.

☐ He knows **all about computers**.

☐ **All I've eaten today** is a banana.
(= the only thing I've eaten today)

B whole and all

Whole = complete, entire. We use **whole** mostly with *singular* nouns:

- ☐ Did you read **the whole book**? (= all the book, not just a part of it)
- ☐ Emily has lived **her whole life** in the same town.
- ☐ I was so hungry, I ate **a whole packet** of biscuits. (= a complete packet)

We do not normally use **whole** with *uncountable* nouns (**water, food, money** etc.).

We say:

- ☐ Did you spend **all the money** I gave you? (*not* the whole money)
- ☐ I read **all the information** carefully. (*not* the whole information)

We use **the/my/a** etc. before **whole**. Compare **whole** and **all**:

- ☐ I read **the whole** book. *but* I read **all the** information.

C every day / all day / the whole day

We use **every** to say how often something happens (**every day** / **every ten minutes** etc.):

- ☐ When we were on holiday, we went to the beach **every day**. (*not* all days)
- ☐ The bus service is excellent. There's a bus **every ten minutes**.
- ☐ We don't see each other very often – about **every six months**.

All day or **the whole day** = the complete day from beginning to end:

- ☐ We spent **all day** on the beach. or We spent **the whole day** ...
- ☐ Dan was very quiet. He didn't say a word **all evening**. or ... **the whole evening**.

Note that we say **all day** (*not* all the day), **all week** (*not* all the week) etc.

Compare **all the time** and **every time**:

- ☐ They never go out. They are at home **all the time**. (= always, continuously)
- ☐ **Every time** I see you, you look different. (= each time, on every occasion)

D Every/everybody/everyone/everything are singular words, so we use a singular verb:

- ☐ **Every seat** in the theatre **was** taken.
- ☐ **Everybody has** arrived. (*not* have arrived)

But we use **they/them/their** after **everybody/everyone**:

- ☐ **Everybody** said **they** enjoyed **themselves**. (= everybody enjoyed himself or herself)

Exercises

90.1 Complete these sentences with **all**, **everything** or **everybody/everyone**.

- 1 It was a good party. Everybody had a great time.
- 2 All I've eaten today is a banana.
- 3 has their faults. Nobody is perfect.
- 4 Nothing has changed. is the same as it was.
- 5 Kate told me about her new job. It sounds interesting.
- 6 Can write their names on a piece of paper, please?
- 7 Why are you always thinking about money? Money isn't
- 8 I'm really exhausted. I want to do is sleep.
- 9 When the fire alarm rang, left the building immediately.
- 10 Amy didn't say where she was going. she said was that she was going away.
- 11 We have completely different opinions. I disagree with she says.
- 12 We all did well in the exam. in our class passed.
- 13 We all did well in the exam. of us passed.
- 14 Why are you so lazy? Why do you expect me to do for you?

90.2 Write sentences with **whole**.

- 1 I read the book from beginning to end. I read the whole book.
- 2 Everyone in the team played well.
The
- 3 Paul opened a box of chocolates. He started eating. When he finished, there were no chocolates left in the box. He ate
- 4 The police came to the house. They were looking for something. They searched everywhere, every room. They
- 5 Everyone in Ed and Jane's family plays tennis. Ed and Jane play, and so do all their children.
The
- 6 Sarah worked from early in the morning until late in the evening.
.....
- 7 Jack and Lisa had a week's holiday by the sea. It rained from the beginning of the week to the end of the week. It

Now write sentences 6 and 7 again using **all** instead of **whole**.

- 8 (6) Sarah
- 9 (7)

90.3 Complete these sentences using **every** with the following:

five minutes ten minutes four hours six months four years

- 1 The bus service is very good. There's a bus every ten minutes.
- 2 Tom is ill. He has some medicine. He has to take it
- 3 The Olympic Games take place
- 4 We live near a busy airport. A plane flies over our house
- 5 Martin goes to the dentist for a check-up

90.4 Which is right?

- 1 Did you spend ~~the whole money~~ / all the money I gave you? (all the money is correct)
- 2 Eve works every day / all days except Sunday.
- 3 I'm tired. I've been working hard all the day / all day.
- 4 It was a terrible fire. Whole building / The whole building was destroyed.
- 5 It's a very sad song. Every time / All the time I hear it, it makes me cry.
- 6 I don't like the weather here. It rains every time / all the time.
- 7 When I was on holiday, all my luggage / my whole luggage was stolen.

each and every

A

Each and **every** are similar. Often it is possible to use **each** or **every**:

- ☐ **Each** time I see you, you look different. or **Every** time I see you ...

But **each** and **every** are not exactly the same.

We use **each** when we think of things separately, one by one.

- ☐ Study **each sentence** carefully.
(= study the sentences one by one)

each = X + X + X + X

Each is more usual for a small number:

- ☐ There were four books on the table.
Each book was a different colour.
☐ (*in a card game*) At the beginning of the game, **each player** has three cards.

We use **every** when we think of things as a group. The meaning is similar to **all**.

- ☐ **Every window** in the house was open.
(= all the windows in the house)

every =



Every is more usual for a large number:

- ☐ Kate loves reading. She has read **every book** in the library. (= all the books)
☐ I'd like to visit **every country** in the world. (= all the countries)

Each (but not **every**) can be used for two things:

- ☐ In football, **each team** has eleven players. (*not every team*)

We use **every** (not **each**) to say how often something happens:

- ☐ 'How often do you use your car?' '**Every day**.' (*not Each day*)
☐ There's a bus **every ten minutes**. (*not each ten minutes*)

B

Compare the structures we use with **each** and **every**.

We use **each** with or without a noun:

- ☐ None of the rooms are the same.
Each room is different. or
Each is different.

Or you can use **each one**:

- ☐ **Each one** is different.

We say **each of (the/these/them ... etc.)**:

- ☐ **Each of the** books was a different colour. (*not each of books*)
☐ **Each of them** was a different colour.
☐ Read **each of these** sentences carefully.

We use **every** with a noun:

- ☐ She's read **every book** in the library.

We don't use **every** alone, but you can say **every one**:

- ☐ A: Have you read all these books?
B: Yes, **every one**.

We say **every one of ...** (*but not every of*):

- ☐ I've read **every one of those** books.
(*not every of those books*)
☐ I've read **every one of them**.

C

We also use **each** in the middle of a sentence. For example:

- ☐ The students were **each** given a book. (= Each student was given a book.)

We say **a dollar each, ten pounds each** etc.:

- ☐ These oranges are **40 pence each**. (**each** = for one orange)

D

everyone and **every one**

Everyone (one word) is only for people (= everybody).

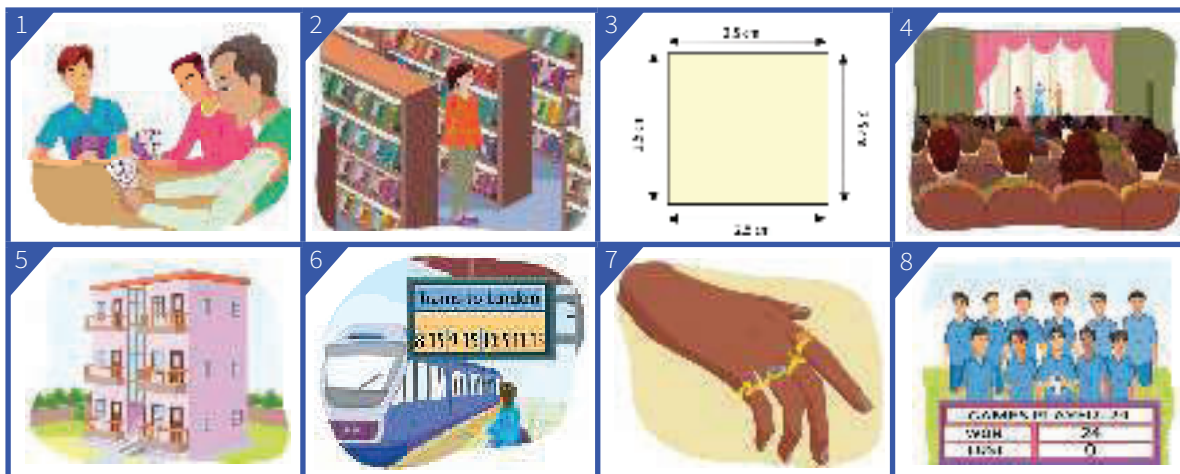
- ☐ **Everyone** enjoyed the party. (= **Everybody** ...)

Every one (two words) is for things or people:

- ☐ Sarah is invited to lots of parties and she goes to **every one**. (= to **every party**)

Exercises

91.1 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with **each** or **every**.



- 1 Each player has three cards.
- 2 Kate has read every book in the library.
- 3 side of a square is the same length.
- 4 seat in the theatre was taken.
- 5 There are six apartments in the building. one has a balcony.
- 6 There's a train to London hour.
- 7 She was wearing four rings – one on finger.
- 8 Our football team is playing well. We've won game this season.

91.2 Put in **each**, **each of** or **every**.

- 1 There were four books on the table. Each book was a different colour.
- 2 The Olympic Games are held every four years.
- 3 parent worries about their children.
- 4 In a game of tennis there are two or four players. player has a racket.
- 5 Nicola plays volleyball Thursday evening.
- 6 I understood most of what they said but not word.
- 7 The book is divided into five parts and these has three sections.
- 8 I get paid four weeks.
- 9 I called the office two or three times, but time it was closed.
- 10 Car seat belts save lives. driver should wear one.
- 11 A friend of mine has three children. I always give them a present at Christmas.
- 12 (from an exam) Answer all five questions. Write your answer to question on a separate sheet of paper.

91.3 Complete the sentences using **each**.

- 1 The price of one of those oranges is 40 pence. Those oranges are 40 pence each.
- 2 I had ten pounds and so did Sonia. Sonia and I
- 3 One of those postcards costs a pound. Those
- 4 The hotel was expensive. I paid 200 dollars and so did you. We

91.4 Put in **everyone** (1 word) or **every one** (2 words).

- 1 Sarah is invited to a lot of parties and she goes to every one.
- 2 I remember school very clearly. I remember in my class.
- 3 I asked her lots of questions and she answered correctly.
- 4 Amy is very popular. likes her.
- 5 I dropped a tray of glasses. Unfortunately broke.

Agreement between subject and verb 1

A

If a sentence has a singular subject, it is followed by a singular verb, and if it has a plural subject, it is followed by a plural verb; that is, the verb *agrees* with the subject. Compare:

Reminder → H1– H3

- ☐ **She** *lives* in China. *and* ☐ **More people** *live* in Asia than in any other continent.

When the subject of the sentence is complex, the following verb must agree with the main noun in the subject. In the examples below the subject is underlined and the main noun is circled. Note how the following verb, in *italics*, agrees with the main noun:

- ☐ Many leading **members** of the opposition party *have* criticised the delay.
☐ The only **excuse** that he gave for his actions *was* that he was tired.

The verb must agree with the subject when the subject follows the verb (see **Units 99 & 100**):

- ☐ Displayed on the board *were* **the exam results**. (*compare* The exam results *were* displayed ...)

B

If the subject is a clause, we usually use a singular verb:

- ☐ To keep these young people in prison *is* inhuman.
☐ Having overall responsibility for the course *means* that I have a lot of meetings.
☐ Whoever took them *remains* a mystery.

However, if we use a **what-clause** as subject (see **Unit 98B**), we use a singular verb if the following main noun is singular, and either a singular or a plural verb if the following main noun is plural (although a plural verb is preferred in more formal contexts):

- ☐ What worries us *is* the poor selection **process**.
☐ What is needed *are* additional **resources**. (*or more colloquially ... needed is ...*)

C

Some nouns with a singular form, referring to groups of some kind, can be used with either a singular or plural form of the verb. These nouns are sometimes called *collective nouns*:

- ☐ **The council** *has* (or *have*) postponed a decision on the new road.

We use a singular verb if the institution or organisation is thought of as a whole unit, and a plural verb if it is thought of as a collection of individuals. Often you can use either with very little difference in meaning, although in formal contexts (such as academic writing) it is common to use a singular verb.

Also: army, association, audience, class, club, college, commission, committee, community, company, crew, crowd, department, electorate, enemy, family, federation, generation, government, group, institute, jury, opposition, orchestra, population, press, public, school, team, university; the Bank of England, the BBC, IBM, Sony, the United Nations (specific organisations)

In some contexts we have to use a singular or a plural form of the verb.

☐ The committee usually raise their hands to vote 'Yes'. (<i>not</i> The committee usually raises its hands ...)	This is something the individuals do, not the committee as a whole.
☐ The school is to close next year. (<i>not</i> The school are to close ...)	This is something that will happen to the school as a building or institution, not to the individuals in the school.

D

When names and titles ending in **-s** refer to a single unit we use a singular verb. Examples include countries; newspapers; titles of books, films, etc.; and quoted plural words or phrases:

- ☐ At this time of the year *the Netherlands* **is** one hour ahead of the UK.
☐ *The Machine Gunners* **was** one of Robert Westall's most successful books.
☐ '*Daps*' **is** the word used in the south-west of the country for sports shoes.

Exercises

40.1 Correct ten mistakes in the italicised verbs in this museum review. A & B

Museums and historic sites

The Rivers Museum
Open: 9 am – 5 pm,
Mon – Sat
Entrance: Free

The Rivers Museum on the corner of Corn Street and New Road ^{houses}~~house~~ a fascinating collection of art and other objects which begins as soon as you step through the door. Among the most eye-catching pieces in the whole collection ^{is}~~is~~ the marble animal sculptures under two arches on the left of the entrance hall. Whoever created these figures apparently ^{remain}~~remain~~ a mystery, but the skill of the craftspeople who worked on them ^{is}~~is~~ obvious. Hanging on the wall directly opposite the carvings ^{is}~~is~~ over a hundred swords from the 17th century. The narrow doorway between the arches ^{let}~~let~~ you into a series of smaller rooms where paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries ^{are}~~are~~ on display. If paintings aren't your thing, the museum's incredible collection of seashells and fossils in the final room ^{are}~~are~~ sure to be of interest. Perhaps what is most surprising about the building itself ^{are}~~are~~ the bell tower in the small courtyard. Only since the restoration work was completed in 2011 ^{have}~~have~~ the tower been open, and climbing the 150 steps to the top to take in the view over the city ^{is}~~is~~ well worth the effort. Over 50 full-time staff and volunteers ^{is}~~is~~ employed and having so many of them available to answer questions about the collection ^{add}~~add~~ to the pleasure of this must-see museum.

40.2 Complete each sentence with a noun from the box and an appropriate form of the verb in brackets (singular, plural or both). C

audience class jury orchestra press
~~team~~ the United Nations university

- The volleyball team play / plays twice a week in the summer. (*play*)
- If the to host the conference, I just don't know where we will be able to hold it. (*refuse*)
- The worldwide television for tomorrow's cup final expected to be 200 million. (*be*)
- The classical concerts throughout the year. (*perform*)
- The Junior Book Prize three adults and three children. (*include*)
- The all passed the end-of-year exam. (*have*)
- The a picture of chaos in our schools, but it's just not like that at all. (*present*)
- ordered an investigation into the capture of members of its peace-keeping force in war zones around the world. (*have*)

40.3 If necessary, correct the mistakes in these sentences or write ✓ if they are already correct.

A–D

- The United States come top of the list of countries ranked by economic performance.
- The people I know who have seen the film say that it's really good.
- The *New Straits Times* report that tourism is booming in Malaysia.
- Northern Lights* are one of Suzanne's favourite books.
- The stairs leading to the first floor were steep and poorly lit.
- Chequers is the country house of the British Prime Minister.
- Whoever made all the mess in the kitchen have to clear it up.
- The phrase 'men in white coats' are used to talk about psychiatrists.
- The public needs to be kept informed about progress in the peace talks.
- Musical chairs are a party game where everyone dashes for a seat when the music stops.

Agreement between subject and verb 2

A

With any of , each of , either of , neither of , or none of and a plural noun / pronoun we can use a <i>singular</i> or <i>plural</i> verb. (We use a singular verb in formal written English.)	☐ I don't think any of them <i>knows</i> (or <i>know</i>) where the money is hidden. ☐ Neither of the French athletes <i>has</i> (or <i>have</i>) won this year.
With a / the majority of , a number of , a lot of , plenty of , all (of) , or some (of) and a plural noun / pronoun we use a <i>plural</i> verb. (We use a singular verb with the number of .)	☐ A number of refugees <i>have</i> been turned back at the border. ☐ The number of books in the library <i>has</i> risen to over five million.
After one of and a plural noun / pronoun we use a <i>singular</i> verb. However, after one of + plural noun / pronoun + who we can often use either a singular or plural verb. (A plural verb is more formal.)	☐ One of the reasons I took the job was that I could work from home. ☐ He's one of those teachers who <i>insist</i> / <i>insists</i> on pupils sitting silently in class.
With any of , none of , the majority of , a lot of , plenty of , all (of) , some (of) and an uncountable noun we use a <i>singular</i> verb.	☐ All the furniture <i>was</i> destroyed in the fire. ☐ None of the equipment <i>appears</i> to be damaged.
With every or each and a singular noun or noun phrase with and , we use a <i>singular</i> verb. (For each of , see above.)	☐ Every room <i>looks</i> over the harbour. ☐ Every boy and girl <i>takes</i> part in the activity. ☐ Each child <i>has</i> drawn a picture. <i>but</i> ☐ The children <i>have</i> each drawn a picture.
With everyone , everybody , everything (and similar words beginning any- , some- and no-) we use a <i>singular</i> verb.	☐ Practically everyone <i>thinks</i> that Phil should be given the job.

B

When a subject has two or more items joined by **and**, we usually use a plural verb:

- ☐ **Ingrid and Tobias** *are* moving back to Australia.

However, phrases connected by **and** can also be followed by singular verbs if we think of them as making up a single item:

- ☐ **The lorry, its cargo and passengers** *weighs* around 35 tonnes. (*or ... weigh ...*)

C

When a subject is made up of two or more items joined by **(either) ... or ...** or **(neither) ... nor ...** we use a singular verb if the last item is singular (although a plural verb is sometimes used in informal English), and a plural verb if the last item is plural:

- ☐ **Either the station or the cinema** *is* a good place to meet. (*or ... are ...* in informal English)
☐ **The President or his representatives** *are* to attend the meeting.

If the last item is singular and previous item plural, we can use a singular or plural verb:

- ☐ **Either the teachers or the principal** *is* to blame for the accident. (*or ... are* to blame ...)

D

In **there + be / have** (see Unit 95) we use a singular verb form with singular and uncountable nouns and a plural form with plural nouns. However, in informal speech we often use a shortened singular form of **be** or **have** (= **There's**) with plural nouns:

- ☐ Over the last few years **there** *have* been many **improvements** in car safety.
☐ **There's** been lots of good films on lately. (*or There've been ...*)

Exercises

41.1 Complete each set of sentences using nouns or phrases from (i) and appropriate present simple verb forms (active or passive) from (ii). If singular and plural verb forms are possible, write both. **A**

(i) his early paintings ~~my children~~ Dr Jones's acquaintances the food

(ii) remain ~~remember~~ taste know

- 1 a I'd be surprised if any of my children remember / remembers my birthday.
- b It's unlikely that any of It seems that he destroyed most of the work he produced during the 1930s.
- c I don't think any of particularly good. In fact, the restaurant is rather disappointing.
- d An investigation is underway to discover whether any of where he is.

(i) vegetarians victims other museums medicines

(ii) exceed charge expect relieve

- 2 a Mainly because of recent health scares involving beef and chicken, the number of to rise dramatically in the next five years.
- b A number of the symptoms of influenza, but none can cure it.
- c It is estimated that the number of of the flooding 100,000.
- d You can still go into the National Museum for free, although a number of in the capital people for entry.

(i) player these factors the cars the pieces

(ii) last test influence try

- 3 a The whole concert includes twenty short items from young musicians. Each of about five minutes.
- b The aim of the game is quite simple. Each to buy as many properties on the board as possible.
- c Each of for safety, fuel economy and reliability.
- d There are four major influences on exchange rates: price levels, tariffs, preference for imported goods, and productivity. Here we investigate how each of the exchange rate.

41.2 Complete the sentences with present simple forms of the verb in brackets. If both singular and plural verb forms are possible, write both. **A-D**

- 1 Plenty of jobs available, but no one them because they're so poorly paid. (*be / want*)
- 2 The majority of those questioned that the government's economic policies have failed, although neither the Prime Minister nor the Education Minister indicated that these policies will change. (*think / have*)
- 3 It's the first time that either of us been to China, but everyone we've met here been very welcoming and helpful. (*have / have*)
- 4 Professor Smith and Dr Peters that the wreck of the ship and its cargo a danger to local people fishing near the island. (*claim / constitute*)
- 5 A: Oh, good, sausages and chips my favourite.
B: Sorry, all the sausages gone, but there plenty of chips left if you want some. (*be / have / be*)

Agreement between subject and verb 3

A Plural nouns

Some nouns are usually plural and take a plural verb:

- ☐ The company's **earnings** *have increased* for the last five years.

Also: **belongings, clothes, congratulations, goods, outskirts, overheads, particulars** (= information), **premises** (= building), **riches, savings, stairs, surroundings, thanks**

Note that **whereabouts** can be used with either a singular or plural verb, **police** and **people** always take a plural verb, and **staff** usually does:

- ☐ **Police** *believe* that Thomas is in Brazil, although his exact **whereabouts** *are / is* unknown.
- ☐ **Staff** *say* that the new computer system has led to greater levels of stress in their work.

B Plural nouns used with singular verbs

Although the words **data** and **media** (= newspaper, television, etc.) are plural (singular **datum** and **medium**), they are commonly used with a singular verb. However, in formal contexts such as academic writing a plural verb is preferred. Note that other similar plurals such as **criteria** and **phenomena** (singular **criterion** and **phenomenon**) are always used with plural verbs. Compare:

- ☐ All the **data** *is* available for public inspection. (*or ... are* available ...) *and*
- ☐ I agree that the **criteria** *are* not of equal importance. (*not ... the criteria is not ...*)

C Uncountable nouns ending in -s

Some uncountable nouns always end in -s and look as if they are plural, but when we use them as the subject they have a singular verb:

- ☐ The **news** from the Middle East *seems* very encouraging.

Also: **means** (= 'method' or 'money'); **economics, linguistics, mathematics, phonetics, physics; politics, statistics, etc.** (= academic subjects); **athletics, gymnastics; diabetes, measles, rabies**

However, compare:

<i>academic subject</i>	<i>general use</i>
☐ Politics <i>is</i> popular at this university.	☐ Her politics <i>are</i> bordering on the fascist. (= political belief)
☐ Statistics <i>was</i> always my worst subject.	☐ Statistics <i>are</i> able to prove anything you want them to. (= numerical information)
☐ Economics <i>has</i> only recently been recognised as a scientific study.	☐ The economics behind their policies <i>are</i> unreasonable. (= the financial system)

D Agreement with measurements, percentages, etc.

With a phrase referring to a measurement, amount or quantity we usually prefer a singular verb:

- ☐ Only **three metres** *separates* the runners in first and second places. (*rather than ... separate ...*)
- and a singular verb must be used when the complement is a singular noun phrase (e.g. a long time):
- ☐ **Three hours** *seems* a long time to take on the homework. (*not Three hours seem ...*)

When the first noun in a complex subject is a percentage or a fraction the verb agrees with the noun closest to the verb. Compare:

- ☐ **An inflation rate** of only 2% *makes* a difference to exports. (verb agrees with main noun) *and*
- ☐ About 50% / half of **the houses** *need* major repairs. (verb agrees with closest noun)

Where we use a singular noun that can be thought of as either a whole unit or a collection of individuals, we can use either a singular or plural verb:

- ☐ Some 80% of **the electorate** *is* expected to vote. (*or ... are* expected ...)

Exercises

42.1 If necessary, correct the italicised verbs. A & B

- 1 Dr Darsee's present whereabouts *is* unknown.
- 2 Phenomena such as sun spots *have* puzzled scientists for centuries.
- 3 Over the last decade the company's overheads *has* increased dramatically.
- 4 The research data *was* collected during the period 12th–29th July of last year.
- 5 Congratulations *goes* to Ricky Branch for his excellent exam results.
- 6 The coastal surroundings of the village *is* particularly attractive.
- 7 He feels that the media *have* criticised him unfairly.
- 8 Further particulars about the house *is* available from the owner.
- 9 People *says* the house is haunted.

42.2 Complete the sentences using suitable present simple verbs. C

- 1 Modern linguistics often said to have begun at the start of the 20th century.
- 2 I think the Senator's politics extremely right-wing.
- 3 If athletics neglected in schools, this will have a big impact on future national teams.
- 4 Measles responsible for the death of a large number of children in the region.
- 5 Contact us by whatever means most convenient for you: phone, email or text.
- 6 Recent statistics evidence of a rapid increase in living standards in Asia.

42.3 Complete these extracts from news articles with a singular or plural form of the verbs in brackets. If both singular and plural forms are possible, write both. A–D; also Unit 40

- 1 The outskirts of our cities (*have*) benefited from the new out-of-town shopping centres that (*have*) recently been built. Around a third of the population regularly (*shop*) out of town.
- 2 On average, 25 litres of water (*be*) used each day per household and as the population (*expect*) higher living standards, this figure will rise.
- 3 Some 36% of the office space in London (*be*) presently empty and the opposition parties (*blame*) high property prices.
- 4 Three centimetres (*be*) all that separated the first two runners in last night's 10,000 metres and the sports club (*have*) declared the race a dead-heat.
- 5 The research group now (*admit*) that the criteria they used (*be*) not totally reliable, and that the figure of 85% (*be*) exaggerated.
- 6 Following last week's major art theft from the Arcon Art Gallery, the premises (*be*) searched by police last night and the owner's belongings (*have*) been taken away for further inspection.
- 7 A survey of the opinions of students (*show*) that economics (*be*) the least popular university subject. However, 90% of the economics students surveyed (*believe*) that their courses are well taught.
- 8 Sufferers from diabetes (*have*) welcomed the launch by Federex of a new drug to combat the disease. The company (*say*) that earnings from the drug (*be*) to be put back into further research.