

## Subject-Verb Agreement

✍ **Rule** = Subject and Verb must agree in *number*.

**Translation** = singular subjects take singular verbs; plural subjects take plural verbs.

- Dan works there.
- Dan and Dylan work there.

✍ **Application:** As the subject changes, the verb must change.

This only happens in third person, present tense, except for was/were, has/ have

- Dan worked there
- Dan and Dylan worked there.

✂ **Problem Area # 1:** Prepositional phrases or long word group separates subject from verb.

☆**Important rule**– the subject of a sentence can **NEVER** be in a prepositional phrase.

**Solution:** Follow these directions for 1 – 6 below.

- cross out prepositional phrases
- circle the real subject
- underline the verb
- read the subject with the verb and check for agreement

- One of my students is/ are here.
- Three of my students is/ are here.
- An enormous flock of hundreds of honking Canadian geese has/ have come to rest by the lake behind my house.

**More Practice: is there S/V agreement?**

1. The pot of tulips, daffodils, and roses next to the dishes and glasses look beautiful.
2. The slaughter of pandas for their pelts have caused the panda population to decline.
3. A newly formed organization of homeowners and business people have met with the transportation department about the construction of that road.
4. The rising cost of prescription drugs and doctors' fees are often overwhelming to Americans who are out of work.
5. At MGM Studios at Disney World, the wonders of moviemaking comes alive.
6. The board of directors, ignoring the wishes of the neighbors, have voted to increase development.