

**singular:** a word that refers to one person, place, thing, or idea is **SINGULAR** in number

**plural:** a word that refers to more than one

**Singular nouns do not end in s often. To make a noun plural, an -s or -es is added most often.**

**Singular verbs end in -s or -es. Plural verbs do not. This can be confusing.**

**The dog swims/swim.**

**It is/are**

**The dogs swims/swim.**

**They is/are**

## Front

**KC#2**

## Back

**An interrupting phrase or clause does not affect subject-verb agreement.**

## Front

**KC#1**

## Back

- **A singular subject must have a singular verb.**
- **A plural subject must have a plural verb.**

**KC #3: compound subjects joined by *and*  
are generally plural**

**singular + singular**

**plural + plural**

**singular + plural**

**The cat and the dog are good friends.**

**The cats and dogs get along well.**

**The cat and the dogs run in the yard.**

### **KC#3\***

- **If two or more subjects joined by *and* are thought of as one item or refer to one item, the verb is singular**
  - **Germany's capital and largest city is Berlin.**
  - **Macaroni and cheese is my favorite food.**
- **If the words *each* or *every* precede a compound subject, the verb is singular.**
  - **Each boy and girl is given a badge.**
  - **Every bolt and latch was secured.**

**KC#4: singular compound subjects joined by *or* or *nor* take a singular verb**

**Dan or Sue is responsible for the dessert.**

**KC#5: plural compound subjects joined by *or* or *nor* take a plural verb**

**The boys or the girls are taking the test first.**

**KC#6: a "mixed number" depends on the closest subject to the verb**

**The girls or Fred is going to light the tree.**

**KC#7: In sentences where the subject is "hard-to-find," the subject must still agree with the verb.**

**KC#8: The subject must agree with the verb, not a predicate nominative.**

**KC#9: A collective noun takes a singular verb when the group it names acts as a single unit but takes a plural verb when the group acts as individuals.**

**KC#10: Some words written in the plural form still require singular verbs.**

**KC#13: Plural titles, works of art, names of organizations, and names of places do not determine the verb.**

**KC#14: A subject expressing an amount or a measurement it is usually singular and requires a singular verb unless the amount refers to individual items.**

**KC#7: The verb must agree with the subject even if the subject is hard to find.**

**KC#8: The verb of the sentence must agree with the subject, not a predicate nominative.**

### **What is a predicate nominative?**

- **Tom is my friend.**
- **Your suggestion is the last one I'd take.**
- **I am a teacher.**

### **What makes this rule hard to follow?**

- **My favorite exercise are jumping jacks.**
- **The cause of the arguments are repetitive misunderstandings.**

**KC#11: Some indefinite pronouns only take singular verbs and some only take plural verbs**

**ALWAYS Singular:**

**anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, every, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone, something, one**

**ALWAYS Plural:**

**both, few, many, others, several**

**KC#12: Some indefinite pronouns can take either singular or plural verbs depending on the context**

**all, any, most, none, some**



**The crowd \_\_\_\_\_ the performers  
at the end of the play.**

**applauds, applaud**

**The family \_\_\_\_\_ their hats while in Paris.**

**wears, wear**

**The team \_\_\_\_\_ the bus to the game.**

**takes, take**

**cleans, clean**

**The team from Charlotte \_\_\_\_\_ out their lockers at the end of the season.**

**KC#9: A collective noun takes a singular verb when the group it names acts as a single unit but takes a plural verb when the group acts as individuals.**



**The committee agrees with the boss most of the time.**



**The committee disagree with each other.**



**The jury discusses the verdict.**



**The jury take their seats upon entering the courtroom.**

**KC#10: Some words that refer to singular items are *always* written as plurals. Some words written as plurals take a plural verb even though they refer to singular items.**

**Singular Verb**

- **the news**
- **social studies**
- **measles**

**Plural Verb**

- **scissors**
- **pants**
- **glasses**
- **binoculars**

**KC#13: Even when in plural form, titles of art, names of countries, cities, and organizations generally take singular verbs.**

- **United States**
- **Grand Rapids**
- ***Conversations***
- **Griffin Brothers**



**KC#14: A subject expressing an amount or a measurement it is usually singular and requires a singular verb unless the amount refers to individual items.**

**Fifty-one cents is enough.**



**Fifty cents are under the sofa pillow.**



**Twenty feet was the length of the jump.**



**Seven months have passed,  
month after month, and still you  
have not returned.**



**Two cups of water is enough for the recipe.**



**Half of the votes were counted.**