Curriculum Topic: English Grammar

Teaching Point: Agreement of Subject and Verb in Texts (Standard One)

Over the next few days, we will explore a simple grammar idea- **Subject and Verb Agreement**- and you will decide if English Language Arts can be fun for students of Standard One. Let's go!

What do you notice about the actions of the characters below?



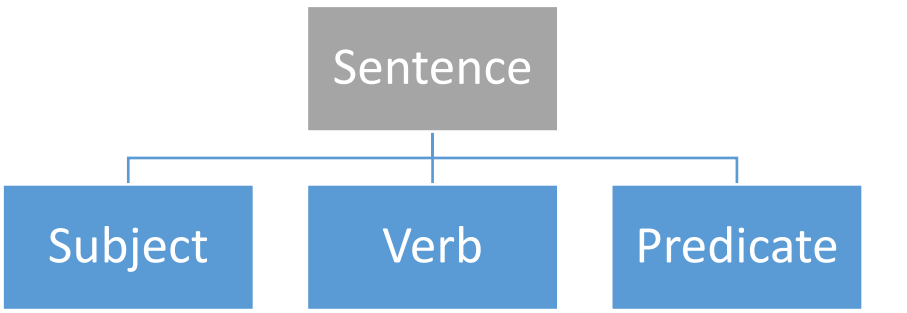


Yes! The boys are shaking hands (agreeing) but the girls are not. From their signs, you can tell that they have different opinions! The girls are not in agreement.

Agreement is always important when you speak or write sentences in English. Your **Subjects** and **Verbs** must agree! There can be no disagreement.

Let's review this now.

A simple sentence has different parts, much like you and I have body parts.



The two very important parts are the **Subject** and the **Verb**. These two must always behave like happy friends. They must work together, for the sentence to make sense.

Do you remember how to figure out the **Verb** of a sentence?

- **Look for the word that indicates action- e.g. play, walk, sing, throw, learn**

Do you remember how to figure out the **Subject** of a sentence?

- **Search for the part that is performing the action in the sentence**
- **Ask the question: Who/What is doing the action?**



Let's look at this example.



Kwesi kicks the football into the goal.

The Verb (action word) is **kicks**

Who kicks? **Kwesi**

The Subject of the sentence is 'Kwesi' since that word shows who performed the action of kicking.



Here are more examples. To figure out the Subject of each sentence. Ask the questions.

Sentence	Verb (Action word)	Subject (Who is performing the action)
The puppies nibble my toes with their teeth.	nibble	What nibbles? **The puppies**
Out the window jumped the scared cat.	jumped	What jumped? **The scared cat**
Sue Lyn practises her dance steps every day.	practices	Who practises? **Sue Lyn**

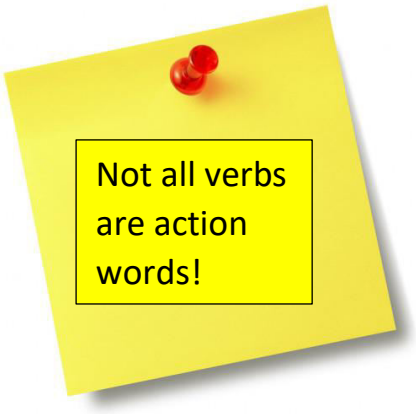


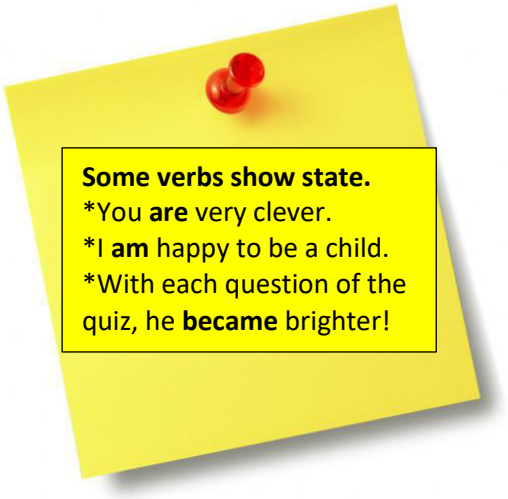
Activity 1: Try to figure out which part of each sentence is its Subject, after first finding its Verb.

Sentence	Verb (Action word)	Subject (Who is performing the action)
Lovely fishes splash among the lilies in the pond.		
Over the treetops appeared the golden moon.		
My grandparents practice yoga on evenings.		

Rudra and Ravi swim as competitors on their school teams.		

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER







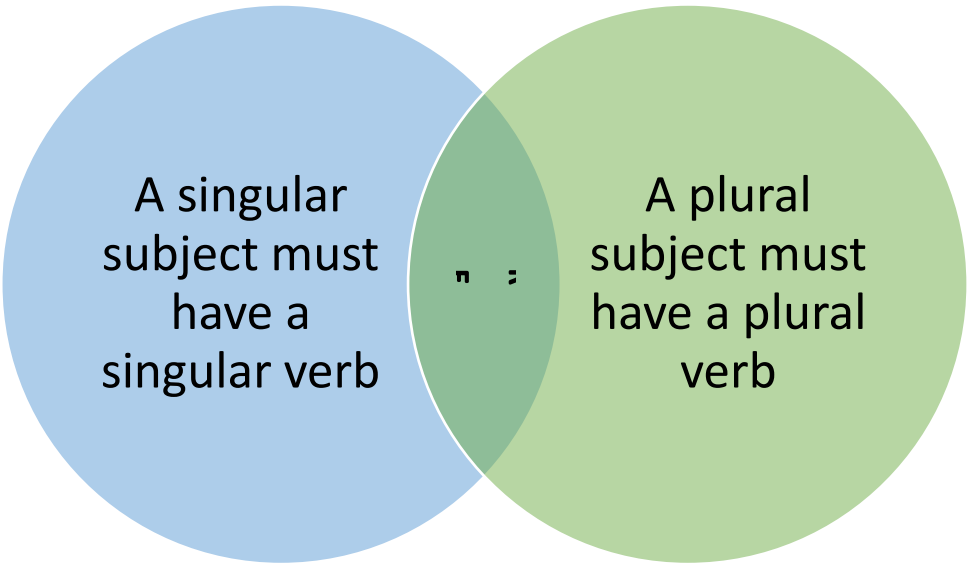
Remember also, that when you write your stories or letters or poems, the same thing applies. The subject and the verb, in each of your sentences, must agree. Your subject is never to fight with your verb!

What does this mean?



Respect the Rule!

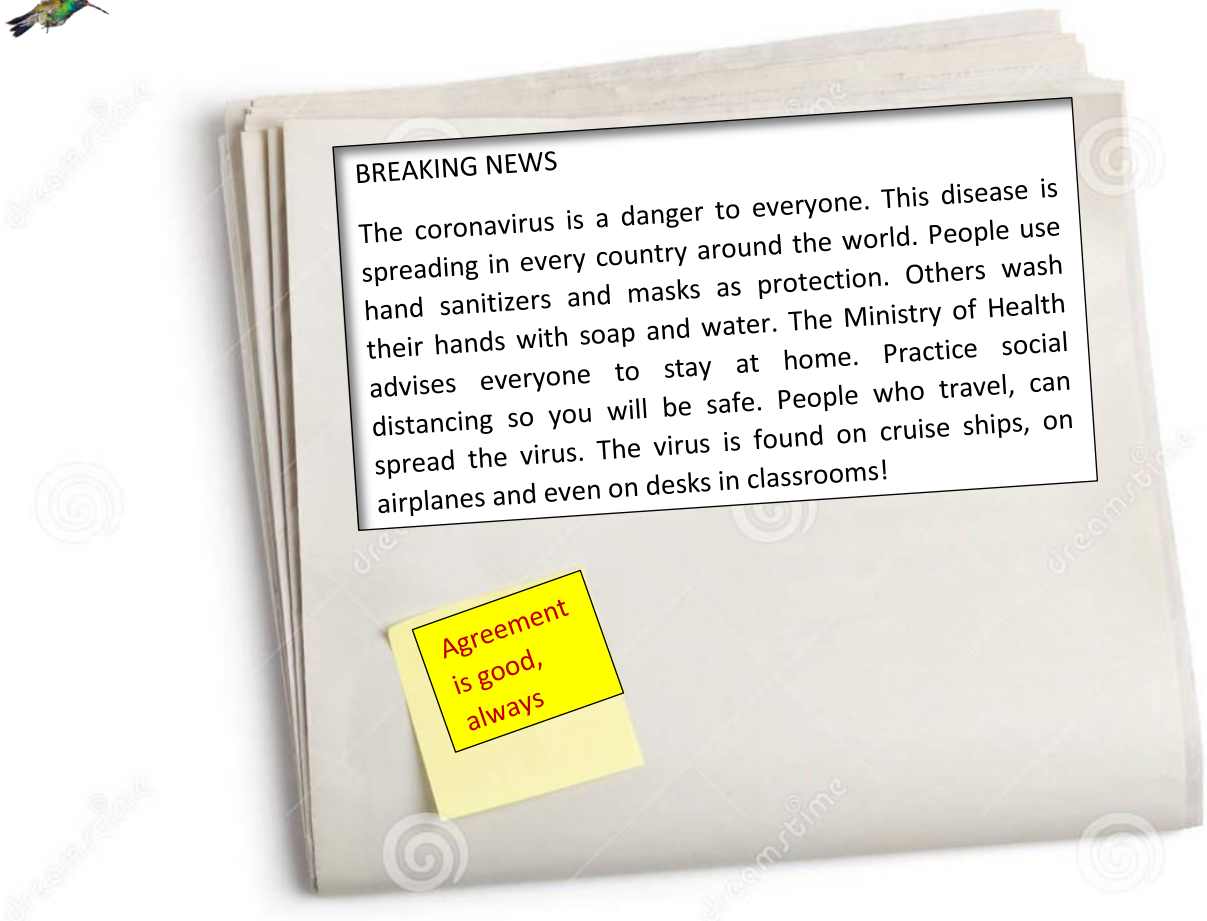
The rule of **subject-verb agreement** is that the **verb** should agree with the **subject** in number and person.



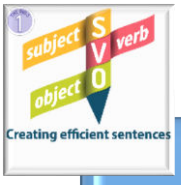
Take as long as you like to think about this. Do not go on to the next activity till you are ok.

Activity 2: Read the short news article. Then, try to find all the subjects and verbs that agree.



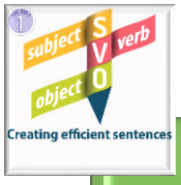


Insert what you find in the boxes for Subjects and Verbs below.



Subjects

- The coronavirus
- This ...
- Peo
- Oth
- The
- Yo
- Peo
- The



Verbs

- is
- i
- u
- w
- a
- w
- c
- i



Good! You did your best with that search. Now, let's return to agreement of subject and verb.

The rule of **subject-verb agreement** is that the **verb** should agree with the **subject** in number and person.

- Do you remember what **number** is?

In English grammar, **Number** refers to Singular (one) or Plural (more than one).

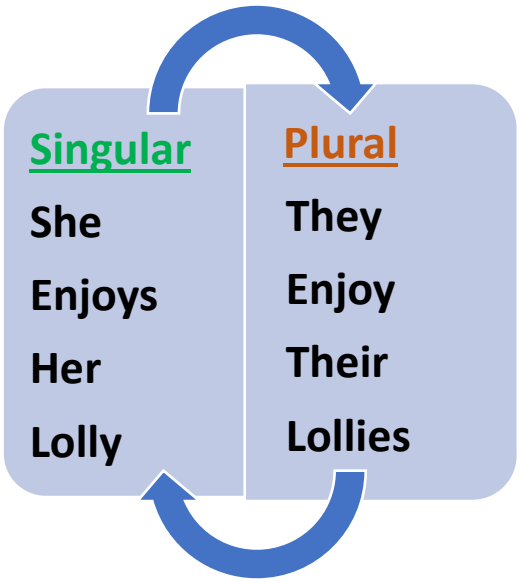
- What does **number** have to do with agreement of subject and verb?

Remember, if the subject is singular, then the verb must be singular.

- **She enjoys her chocolate lolly.**

Similarly, if the subject is plural, then the verb must be plural.

- **They enjoy their fruit lollies.**





Activity 3: The Numbers Game- Singular or Plural

Read the funny poem, <u>Humbug</u> and then list the Subject and Verbs according to number. Which are Singular and which Plural? I've done the first for you as examples.



Humbug

I jump as fast as a frog

He leaps as long as a log

She shuffles slowly in her clogs,

But…

You, my lovebug, I give many hugs!

On this rather windy day.

The branches swing noisily,

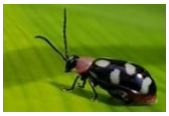
As birds dart by happily

And cotton-candy clouds float lazily.

Yet you, my lovebug, ignore my hugs.

I no longer will tolerate your shrugs.

What a humbug!

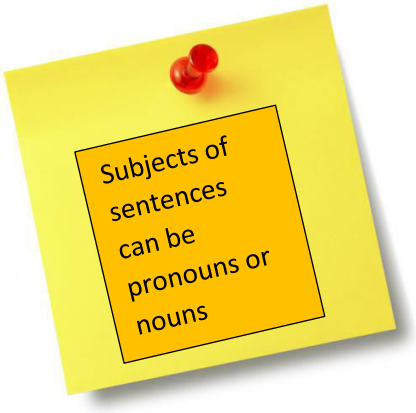


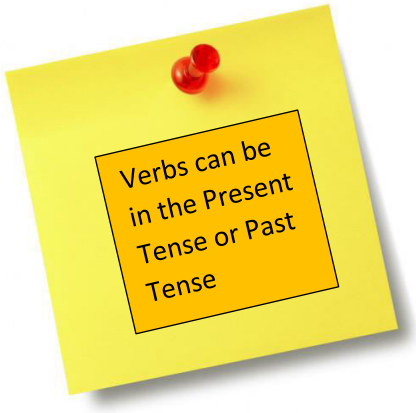
April 2020

Singular Subjects with Singular Verbs	***Humbug***	Plural Subjects with Plural Verbs
e.g. I jump	*I jump as fast as a frog* *He leaps as long as a log* *She shuffles slowly in her clogs,* *But…* *You, my lovebug, I give many hugs!* *On this rather windy day.* *The branches swing noisily,* *As birds dart by happily* *And cotton-candy clouds float lazily.* *Yet you, my lovebug, ignore my hugs.* *I no longer will tolerate your shrugs.* *What a humbug!* *Poem by MM-G April 2020*	*e.g. The branches swing*



Great Job! You've completed the activity. Now check the answer key at the end to see if you got correct. Remember the key points in the post-its below.





Now you are comfortable with these three important grammar points:

- ✓ Subject
- ✓ Verb
- ✓ Number

Let's look at one more grammar word

✓ **Person**

Remember the **verb** should agree with the **subject** in **number** and **person**. Therefore, the person of the subject can be one of the following in the sentence:

- 1st person- I (Singular)
- 2nd person- You
- 3rd person- We, They (Plural)

For example

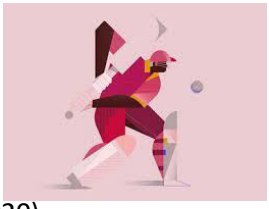
- 1st person: I hit the ball hard.
- 2nd person: You hit the ball with little energy.
- 3rd person (Singular): He hits the ball over the boundary, like a professional.
- 3rd person (Plural): They hit the ball with such force, that even bowlers get scared.



You will do more of this when you get older, so, don't worry about it!

Activity 4: Practise your writing now. Remember to respect the rule of subject-verb agreement, by applying it as you write.

Whether you write a story or letter or poem, the **subjects** and the **verbs**, in each of your sentences, must agree in **number** and **person**!



You can write in this box.



When you are finished writing, check your work to ensure all subjects and verbs agree in number and person!

Make sure your singular subjects have singular verbs and

Plural subjects have plural verbs.



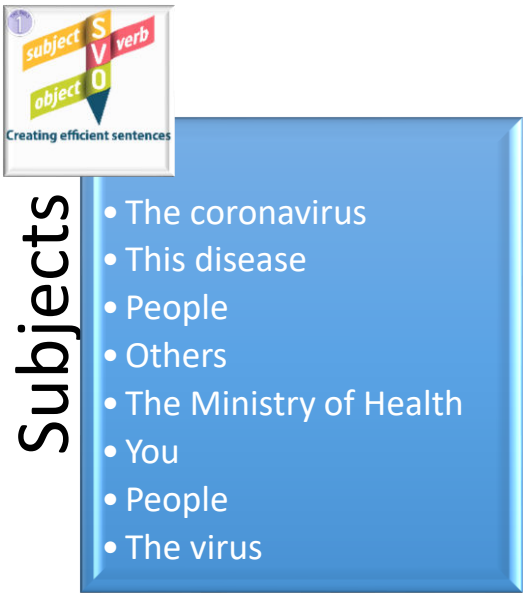
Use this Answer Key to check your work



Activity 1: Try to figure out which part of each sentence is its Subject, after first finding its Verb.

Sentence	Verb (Action word)	Subject (Who is performing the action)
Lovely fishes splash among the lilies in the pond.	**splash**	**Lovely fishes**
Over the treetops appeared the golden moon.	**appeared**	**the golden moon**
My grandparents practise yoga on evenings.	**practise**	**My grandparents**
Rudra and Ravi swim as competitors on their school teams.	**swim**	**Rudra and Ravi**

Activity 2: Read the short news article. Then, try to find all the subjects and verbs that agree. Insert what you find in the news above, in the boxes for Subjects and Verbs below.

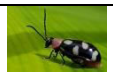






Activity 3: The Numbers Game- Singular or Plural

Read the funny poem, <u>Humbug</u> and then list the Subject & Verbs according to number. Which are Singular and which Plural?

Singular Subjects with Singular Verbs	 ***Humbug***	Plural Subjects with Plural Verbs
He leaps	*They jump as fast as frogs* *He leaps as long as a log*	*They jump*
She shuffles	*She shuffles slowly in her clogs,* *But…*	*The branches swing*
I give	*You, my lovebug, I give many hugs!* *On this rather windy day.*	*Birds dart*
It is	*The branches swing noisily,* *As birds dart by happily*	*Cotton-candy clouds float*
You ignore	*And cotton-candy clouds float lazily.* *Yet you, my lovebug, ignore my hugs.* *I no longer will tolerate your shrugs.* *What a humbug!* *April 2020*	



Activity 4: Practise your writing now. Remember to respect the rule of subject-verb agreement, by applying it as you write.

Write whatever you are interested in.

Whether you write a story or letter or poem, the **subjects** and the **verbs**, in each of your sentences, must agree in **number** and **person**!

Enjoy connecting what you learn in English grammar, to your own writing! And keep on writing for fun.