

## Subject Verb Agreement Help Sheet

### Rule #1

If a subject is singular, its verb must also be singular; if a subject is plural, its verb must also be plural. \*\*\*In this case verbs with a "s" on the end are considered singular. Use a singular verb after each, neither, everyone, everybody, nobody, and someone.

Nobody **is** here.  
Everybody **helps** when there is a crisis.  
Somebody **wants** to speak to you.

### Rule #2

If you use **either-or**, look at the subject closest to the verb. If the subject closest to the verb is singular, use a singular verb; likewise, if the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Either Miss Brown or **Jane writes** on the blackboard.  
Either the teacher or **the students write** on the blackboard.

This also applies to **not only. . .but also**, and **neither. . .nor**. The subject closest to the verb determines whether the verb is singular or plural.

Not only Julie but also **Georgette wants** to visit grandma.  
Not only Julie but also **all of the grandchildren want** to visit grandma.  
Neither Miss Brown n or **Jane writes** on the blackboard.  
Neither the teacher n or **the students write** on the blackboard.

### Rule #3

When using **as well as**, **except**, **in addition to**, **no less than**, and **with**, the noun before these phrases determines the number.

My problem with you **is** you don't listen!

### Rule #4

**Measurements** of money, time, and distance usually require a **singular verb**.

One hundred dollars **is** a lot of money for a bottle of wine.  
Two hours **is** a long time to wait to see a doctor.  
93,000,000 miles **is** the distance from the sun to the earth.

### **Rule #5**

The following words almost always use the **plural** form of **verbs**: **all**, **both**, **few**, **many**, **several**, and **some**.

Some people in my office **are** very annoying  
Few mountain climbers **have** successfully reached the peak of Mt. Everest.

### **Rule #6**

The word **none** needs special attention. Sometimes it uses a **singular verb**, and at other times, it uses a **plural verb**. When **none** means no one or not one, use the singular form of the verb.

None of them **is** able to do that job.

When none means or suggests more than one thing or person, use the plural form of the verb.

None **are** helpless because they can always try.

### **Rule #7**

Here and there canNOT be subjects. Therefore, if a sentence begins with here or there, look for the subject and write the correct form of the verb.

Here **is** my jacket. (jacket is singular)  
Here **are** my shoes. (shoes is plural)

### **Rule #8**

When the word **number** is preceded with the word **a**, use a plural verb. When the word **number** is preceded with the word **the**, use a singular verb.

**A number** of people **are** waiting to see you.  
**The number** of stars in the sky **seems** countless.