

Verifying Subject-Verb Agreement: Three Basics to Remember

Sometimes making the subject agree with the correct verb can be tricky. Use these guidelines to ensure you make the right choice.

Rule 1: Match singular subjects with singular verbs and plural subjects with plural verbs.

Example: She doesn't work (not *don't*) remotely.

Example: They don't (not *doesn't*) work remotely.

Rule 2: Use plural verbs with subjects joined by *and*.

Example: The manager and his assistant don't (not *doesn't*) agree on everything.

Rule 3: Match these indefinite pronouns with singular verbs: *anyone, anybody, anything, each, either, every, everyone, everybody, everything, many a, neither, nobody, nothing, someone, somebody, and something.*

Example: Everyone likes (not *like*) to be recognized for doing a good job.

Underline the subjects in the following sentences and highlight the correct verb to match. Then identify the rule that applies.

1. Anyone who [don't, doesn't] file the form on time will be subject to a fine.
2. Marketing and advertising [is/are] often considered complementary departments.
3. Elena [laugh/laughs] so loudly that those working near her complain.
4. Grassroots campaigners who frequently volunteer [is/are] often unpaid.
5. The personnel director position [require/requires] knowledge of HIPAA regulations.
6. We [was/were] looking forward to the oral presenting workshop.
7. Both Miguel and Angela [know/knows] how to fix the jam in the copier.
8. Although they [is/are] related, Annabelle and Zac [has/have] different last names.
9. Every CEO [have/has] a different leadership style.
10. Each assistant and clerk [need/needs] to complete the same training modules.
11. Manny, who was promoted, and Avaline, who wasn't, both [want/wants] a raise.
12. The vlogger [post/posts] a new video every Wednesday.