macmillan education



Subject – Verb Agreement



Quiz Time

Harsha: Let’s have some fun!

Sita: Good idea ! I’ll call out a sentence and you pick out the mistake…

Harsha: Ok.. Good idea!

Sita: We has not finished our class project as yet.

Harsha: I know! It should have been:

We have not finished our class project as yet.



Quiz Time

Sita: Correct! Now it's your turn…

Harsha: It were a good idea!

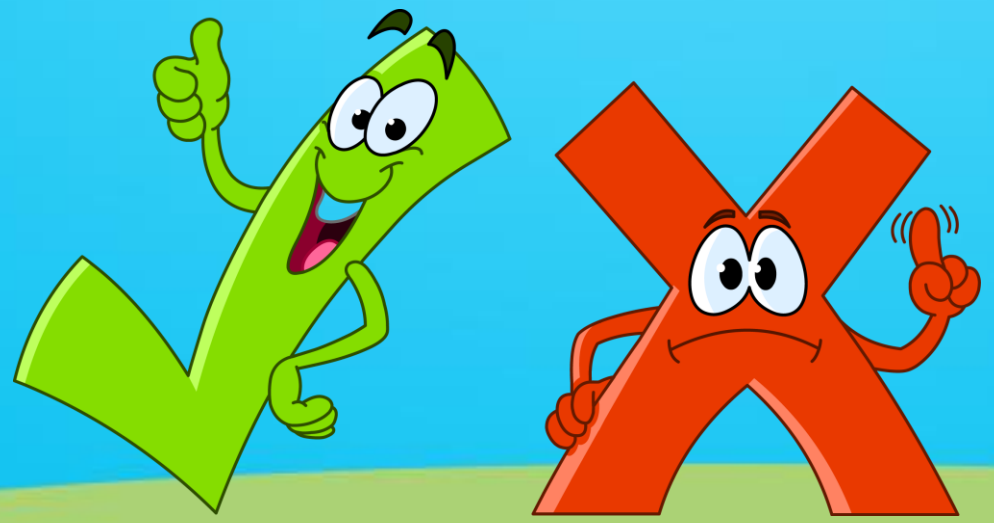
Sita: I know – it should be:

It was a good idea!

Harsha: This are fun!

Sita: Wrong! It should be:

This is fun!



Let's Recall

- A singular subject – (it, this) takes a singular verb (it was / this is)
- A plural subject (we) takes a plural verb (have)
- Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in number (singular or plural)
- As a general rule , use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by and

Example: A swing and a slide are in our park.

- A swing and a slide – subject

  are - plural verb



Some more rules to remember

- Two singular subjects connected by *or, either/or,* or *neither/nor* require a singular verb

  Example: Neither Ria nor Raju has brought their books.

  Either Fatima or Dhruv is ready to help us today.

- Use a singular verb with distances, periods of time, sums of money, etc., when considered as a unit.

  Example: Two hundred rupees is the cost of this item.

  Three years is the longest it will take to complete this task.

Your Turn to Try

Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.

1. Manya and her sister (is /are) at home today.
2. Either my book or your book (has/have) been taken away.
3. Rai (doesn't /don't) know the answer.
4. The woman with all the items (live/lives) near my house.
5. (Is /Are) the scissors in the drawer ?
6. Neither you nor Meenu (know/knows) the answer.

Let's Try Another Activity

Pick out the subject in each sentence.

Then pick out the verb and say whether it agrees with the subject.

Change the verbs if they are incorrect.

1. Our dog always growls at the post man.
2. I do understands this topic.
3. Raju love eating apples.
4. Neither Kamla nor Kartik knows how to play basketball.
5. Five thousand rupees are the cost of this phone.
6. These trousers is too small for me now.