

Lesson Four (a): Agreement

1. Subject and Verb/ :

The verb agrees with its subject in number and person. When the subject consists of two nouns: or noun equivalents-double or multiple (consisting of more than two nouns or noun equivalents) is always in the plural.

Note/: Singular subjects need singular verbs; plural subject-need plural verbs,
e.g. The work they are doing seems dangerous.(sing. Subject----
Singular Verb)

The cars they are repairing are ours.

2. Two nouns connected by and not, as well as, with, together with, no less than, including, besides, in addition to, are followed by a singular verb when the first noun is singular.

- e.g. **1.** Rachid, **as well as** his sisters, **is** absent
- 2.** The father, **with** his small daughters, was killed.
- 3.** Samia, **as well as** Fatiha, likes apples.
- 4.** Mohamed, **like** his two brothers, is a great gambler.
- 5.** Samir, **together with** his mother, was down with Flu.

3• Subjects joined by AND are always plural/:

e.g. The farmer **and** his son are going to the field. Mohamed, Rachid **and** I were very busy all the day long.

Exception/: When a compound subject refers to a single person, or to two or more things regarded as one unit, it is singular. e.g. My best companion and assistant was dead. (A single individual was both companion and assistant.)

- **4. When the article (definite and indefinite) is repeated before the nouns, where different persons or things are meant, the verb is plural.**

- e.g. **1.** The father and the brother were present at the meeting.
- 2.** A table and a wardrobe were bought secondhand.

5. When not only...but also joins two nouns or pronouns, the verb agrees with the **Second** (noun or pronoun).

e.g. 1 . Not only the bride but also relatives were missing.

2 . Not only the bride but also her mother was missing.

6. Singular subjects joined by or , nor, either...or, neither...nor, are usually followed

by a single verb:

e.g. 1. Neither the driver nor the dog was hurt.

2. Either the teachers or the pupils are wrong.

3. Neither the teacher nor the pupil has come.

4. Either the boy or the girl has done it.

NOTE/: 7. If one subject is singular and one plural, the verb usually agrees with the nearer.

- e.g. 1. Neither the husband nor his wife **is** invited.
2. Neither the father nor his daughters **are** invited.
3. Neither he nor we are angry.

8. Each and every preceding singular subjects joined by and or not joined by and take singular verbs:-

- e.g. 1. Each dog **is** barking.
2. Every boy **is** working.
3. Every boy and each girl **has** to present a report.

9. Collective nouns (nouns that combine to form one idea) take a singular verb.

- e.g. 1. The whole family is not interested in the play, (family is considered as a unit.)
2. Bread and butter **is** considered as a wholesome food.
3. The number of injuries **is** small.

10. Each, either, neither, another, anyone, anybody, anything, someone, somebody, something, one, everyone, everybody, everything, nobody, none (no one), and nothing when they are subjects, they usually take a singular verb.

- e.g. 1. Everyone has his turn on mounting the horse.
2. Everybody is responsible for his own deeds.
3. Everyone has his own point of view.

II. Certain number of nouns in English which are plural in form but singular in meaning such as NEWS, WAGES, MEANS take singular verbs.

- e.g. 1. The wages of the miner is insufficient.
2. The only means to destroy the bridge is to blow it up.

The End

LESSON Four (b): Agreement and Shifts in POINTS OF VIEW

1) Maintain a consistent point of view as an aid to coherence:

Sudden and illogical shifts in point of view tend to obscure the meaning and thus to cause needless difficulty in reading.

a)-Avoid needless shifts in tense:

Shift: The boy closed his book and hurries away to the playground.(a shift from past tense to present tense)

Better: The boy closed his book and hurried away to the playground.(both verbs are in the past tense)

b)-Avoid needless shifts in mood:

Shift: First rise to your feet and then you should address the chairman (a shift from imperative to indicative mood)

Better: First rise to your feet and then address the chairman.(both verbs in the imperative mood)

c)-Avoid needless shifts in subject or Voice:

Shift: James liked fishing, but hunting was also enjoyed by him.(the subject shifts from James to hunting. The voice shifts from active to passive)

Better: James liked fishing, but he also enjoyed hunting.(the subject does not shift. Both verbs active.)

d)- Avoid needless shifts in person:

Shift: Students will find the University Book Shop a great convenience. You need not leave the campus to purchase any school supplies you may need.(A shift from third to second person)

Better: The student will find the University Book Shop a great convenience. He need not leave the campus to purchase any school he may need.

e)- Avoid needless shifts in number:

Shift: A person should be thoughtful of their neighbours.

Better: A person should be thoughtful of his neighbours.

f)-Avoid needless shifts from indirect to direct discourse:

Shift: My friend asked whether I knew the coach and will he be with the team.(mixed indirect and direct discourse)

Better: My friend asked whether I knew the coach and whether he would be with the team.(indirect discourse)

Better: My friend asked, "Do you know the coach? Will he be with the team?"(Direct Discourse)

2)-Maintain the same tone or style throughout the sentence:

Inappropriate: Analysis of the principal obstacles to harmony in the United Nations reveals that Russia and her satellites refuse to play ball with the rest of the world. A shift from formal to colloquial style. Substitute cooperate, or a similar word, for the underlined expression).

Activity: Correct in the following sentences all needless shifts in tense ,mood, subject, voice person, number and tone.

1. Jane likes to cook ,but house cleaning is not a pleasant occupation.
2. Each person has some distinctive mannerism of their own.
3. When she saw him in the room, she thinks that she is dreaming.
4. When the policeman gave me a ticket for rolling past a stop sign, I ask him what the fine would be.
5. No matter what her mother may say, Jane always took the opposite view
6. It is a book everyone should read, for you can derive much good from it.
7. Pick the roses in the morning, and then they should be placed in water.
8. A vacation is enjoyed by all because it refreshes the mind and the body.
9. He told his aunt that there is someone in the room.
10. Every citizen should do his duty as they see it.
- 11 .Standing before the house, he thought of the many happy years he had spent there and how quickly they are passing.

The end