Subject/Verb Agreement – Situations and Explanations

In English, the subject must agree with the verb. Generally, it is simple subject/verb agreement: a singular subject takes a singular verb, a plural subject requires a plural verb. Sometimes however, subject – verb agreement does not follow the English language logic. This guide will help you understand some tricky situations in English.

Situations Table – Subject/Verb Agreement

Situation	Other Grammatical Details	Examples and Explanations
1. Two subjects joined by **and**	1. Two subjects are joined by **and** – anything relative to the second verb, they requires a plural form of the verb.	1. The two **girls** **are** **laughing** very loudly in the office.
		Now, instead of joining **and** – they indicate a relative the verb "are" refers to plural.
		The note **said** the manager **was** **walking** in the park.
		Also, instead of connecting **and** – they indicate relative the verb "are walking" refers to plural.
2. Ignore prepositional phrases when finding subject and verb agree.	2. Prepositional phrases are modifiers usually begin with: of, to, in, from, with, at, for. There are other prepositions also, but not as many as enough, but this is the most.	2. The **cat** in those pictures **was** very hungry for her neighbors.
	Prepositional phrases don't affect subject-verb agreement.	The **object** in the cat, "in" those pictures, **was** not a prepositional phrase. "Message" is doing the **was** in agreement with the subject cat.
	Those prepositional phrases usually begin in time and media.	2. Letters, **Belongings** **Hotline**, are not **left** in night.
	Only the **subject** of the	The subject is "letters". "Those your number" is a