

## Subject-verb agreement

### I. Basic rules

The basic rule states that a singular subject takes a singular verb while a plural subject takes a plural verb.

- (a) They walk on the street? They **is** a plural subject → use the plural form = 'walk'!
- (b) He is the subject in 'he', we say, he walks on the street? He **is** a singular subject → use the singular form = 'walks'!

### II. Special cases

1. Two subjects are connected by **and**

- (a) He is a person or a thing which is different from HE → **is** a plural verb
- (b) The doctor and the nurse arrive
- (c) The doctor and the nurse **are** different people!

2) HE and SHE → He goes → **is** a singular verb

- (a) The doctor and the nurse arrive
- (b) George and even on the floor of only one person, 'He' was not not!

3. Two subjects are connected by **or / either**

- (a) you and he → **is** a singular verb (a HE is a singular subject)
- a plural verb (a HE is a plural subject)

In case, verb depends on HE

- (a) You or I am wrong? (a HE is HE → **is** verb is 'am')
- (b) The answer lies in the place or in the place? (a HE is 'the place' → verb is 'is')

4. Subject is a V-ing phrase

- (a) When a V-ing phrase becomes a subject, use the singular verb
- (b) Finding the book was difficult for her

→ Note: When using 'to + infinitive' as a subject, we also use the singular verb. However, we don't use usually use 'it' instead.

- (a) To find the book is necessary for her → it is necessary for her to find the book