

## 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 'is', 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 → use a plural verb
- (b) The doctor and the nurse arrive
- (c) The doctor and the nurse **are** different people!

2) HE and SHE → the same → use a singular verb

(b) The doctor and nurse arrive

(c) Doctor and nurse are two different individuals → 'He' was not used!

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

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

4) you, verb depends on HE

(b) You or I am wrong (a) he → → verb is 'am'!

(c) The wrong food in the plate or in the shop? (a) is 'the plate' → verb is 'is'!

4. Subject is a V-ing phrase

When a V-ing phrase becomes a subject, use the singular verb

(b) Finding the book is important for her

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

(b) To find the best restaurant for her → it is necessary for her to find the best