

AGREEMENT



AGREEMENT



Agreement

=

Number

AGREEMENT



AND...

- ∞ the 2 largest issues when it comes to Agreement =
 - ∞ **SUBJECT-VERB Agreement** &
 - ∞ **PRON-ANTECEDENT Agreement**

SO...

- ∞ A **SUBJECT** & a **VERB** have to agree in number.
- ∞ A **PRONOUN** & its **ANTECEDENT** (*the word a pronoun refers to*) have to agree in number.

AGREEMENT



SO...

∞ Singular goes with singular.

∞ Plural goes with plural.

AGREEMENT



In terms of SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT:

- ∞ A **singular** subject takes a **singular** verb.
- ∞ A **plural** subject takes a **plural** verb.

In terms of PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT:

- ∞ A **singular** noun/pronoun takes a **singular** pronoun.
- ∞ A **plural** noun/pronoun takes a **plural** pronoun.

S-V AGREEMENT



OK, sounds simple, right?

⌘ Until we ask: What does a plural verb look like?

⌘ We know that most “regular” nouns are made plural by adding **+s**.

⌘ So “student” becomes “students.”

⌘ Verbs will be just the opposite of nouns:

⌘ If a PLURAL noun gets an +s

⌘ Then a PLURAL verb will *not* get an -s

S-V AGREEMENT



Here's a chart that might make this simpler:

	<u>SINGULAR</u>	<u>PLURAL</u>
<u>NOUN</u>	- S	+ S
<u>VERB</u>	+ S	- S
(<u>to be</u>)	is, (I am), was	are, were
(<u>to have, to do</u>)	has, (I have), does	have, do

S-V AGREEMENT



œ So as you can see, Subject-Verb Agreement deals with **+s** or **no -s**.

œ Do **NOT** add **+d**:

œ This changes the tense.

œ Changing the tense changes the meaning of the sentence.

œ Remember: It's "s" or no "s"

AGREEMENT



ALSO...

- ∞ INDEFINITE PRONOUNS can confuse agreement:
- ∞ These are pronouns that don't point to a *specific* sex or number (*any, every, all*)
 - ∞ some sound plural BUT function as singular
 - ∞ (*everybody* seems plural,
 - ∞ but it takes a singular verb & singular pronoun)
- ∞ SO: What does a PLURAL PRONOUN look like?

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☞ Here's another chart to help with Indefinite PNs:

<u>SINGULAR</u>	<u>EITHER</u> Singular <u>OR</u> Plural *depends upon the <u>OBJECT of the</u> <u>PREPOSITION*</u>	<u>PLURAL</u>
EVERYONE, EVERYBODY	ALL	BOTH
ANYONE, ANYBODY	ANY	MANY
SOMEONE, SOMEBODY	SOME	FEW
NO ONE, NOBODY	MOST	SEVERAL
EACH, MUCH, ONE	MORE	
EITHER, NEITHER	NONE	

AGREEMENT



SINGULAR Pronouns:

❧ I, me, mine

❧ you, yours

❧ he, she, it

❧ his, hers, its

PLURAL Pronouns:

❧ we, us, ours

❧ you, yours

❧ they, them, theirs

SUBJECT-VERB



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DEFINITIONS



VERBS:

∞ VERBS *either show action or state of being*

∞ state-of-being verbs are forms of “to be”

∞ is, am, are, was, were

∞ Examples:

∞ ACTION verb:

∞ Jeremiah joked, jested, and jibed. (3 action verbs)

∞ S.O.B. verb:

∞ Jeremiah is a fun person to be around. (LINKING VERB "is")

DEFINITIONS



VERBS:

∞ Hints:

∞ find the **Subject** and ask what he/she/it did

∞ underline all **Infinitives** (to + verb: to run)

∞ with them eliminated, your choice for Verb should be clearer

∞ circle all **Subordinating Conjunctions** and **Relative Pronouns, too**

∞ to eliminate the minor clauses these words introduce

∞ SC: if, because, although, when, since, unless

∞ RP: that, which, who

DEFINITIONS



SUBJECTS:

- ∞ First, to be clear, a SUBJECT is a *function*, a job
 - ∞ as opposed to a Part of Speech –
 - ∞ in general, a Noun is a Part of Speech, but it can *function* in a particular sentence as a subject, object, object of preposition, or some other role
 - ∞ Nouns or Pronouns and Words, Phrases, & Clauses can function as subjects
- ∞ A SUBJECT does not have to be a single word –
 - ∞ subjects can be words, phrases, or clauses functioning in that role
 - ∞ (however, in most S-V Agreement exercises, we typically use single-word subjects for clarity)

DEFINITIONS



SUBJECTS:

- ⌘ A SUBJECT is *not* “what the sentence is about.”
 - ⌘ that will inevitably lead student-writers to the wrong word
 - ⌘ especially when it comes to prepositional phrases
 - ⌘ the OBJECT of the PREPOSITION *will not* function as the SUBJECT of the sentence too
 - ⌘ 1 job per sentence

DEFINITIONS



SUBJECTS:

- ❧ The SUBJECT of the sentence is the *performer of the action*.
 - ❧ think of it as the “quarterback”
 - ❧ where the Object is the “receiver” of the action
 - ❧ Who or What is performing the action?
- ❧ The SUBJECT can be anywhere in the sentence –
 - ❧ so don't look for it at the start
 - ❧ in some sentence structures, it comes after the verb
 - ❧ some can even come at the very end of the sentence

DEFINITIONS



SUBJECTS:

❧ Examples:

- ❧ Jesus missed the test today in History 225.
❧ (1 noun as subject)
- ❧ Maria and Esteban parked in the far lot this morning. (2 nouns as subject)
- ❧ He felt sick when he discovered the truth.
❧ (pronoun as subject)
- ❧ The teacher with a bad toupee wore hats on windy days. (noun phrase as subject)
- ❧ To fail this simple test would be a sin.
❧ (infinitive phrase as subject)
- ❧ What this town needs is a new mayor.
❧ (relative clause as subject)

DEFINITIONS



SUBJECTS:

∞ Hints:

∞ find the VERB first

∞ do not look for the Subject within a
Prepositional Phrase

∞ Parts of Speech serve one role only in a sentence

∞ so the Object of the Preposition cannot function as the
Subject of the sentence

PROCESS



HOW-TO:

❧ STEP 1:

❧ underline all Prepositional Phrases & Infinitives

❧ STEP 2:

❧ underline all Subordinating Conjunction and
Relative Pronoun clauses

❧ STEP 3:

❧ of the words remaining, determine the Verb
❧ typically, the *action* word

PROCESS



HOW-TO:

❧ STEP 4:

❧ ask, “Who did that?” of the Verb to locate the Subject

❧ STEP 5:

❧ now that you have successfully located the Subject & Verb, determine if they agree with each other in terms of number:

❧ are they both singular, are they both plural

❧ *if they agree, move on*

❧ *if they do not agree, change the Verb OR revise the entire sentence*

PROCESS



- ❧ Remember, Subject-Verb Agreement deals with +s or no -s on the verb.
- ❧ Do NOT add +ed:
 - ❧ This changes the tense.
 - ❧ Changing the tense changes the meaning of the sentence.
- ❧ Remember: It's "s" or no "s"

RULES



RULES:

- ❧ Agreement deals with number:
 - ❧ Singular goes with singular,
 - ❧ Plural goes with plural.
- ❧ Do not be fooled by sentence arrangement.
 - ❧ Subjects & Verbs aren't always right next to each other; sometimes the verb can come first.

RULES



RULES:

❧ For subjects joined by “**or**” or “**nor**”

❧ make the verb agree with whichever word is closest.

❧ For subjects joined by “**and**”

❧ use a plural verb.

RULES



RULES:

- ❧ ... **UNLESS** a *single* person, object, idea, or measurement is intended
 - ❧ *singular meaning = singular verb.*
- ❧ Similarly, nouns plural in form that express a *single* unit of measurement, amount, or food dish will take a *singular* verb.
 - ❧ The Celtics' coach and star center *was* Bill Russell.
 - ❧ Six spoonfuls *is* enough sugar in your coffee.
 - ❧ Macaroni and cheese *is* her favorite meal.

RULES



RULES:

- œ Some nouns **plural in form** take the plural verb-
 - œ such as *slacks, jeans, clippers, shears, tweezers, pliers, scissors, and tongs.*
- œ With **collective noun** subjects
 - œ use a singular verb if a group acts as a *single* unit;
 - œ use a plural verb if the members act as *individuals*.

PRONOUN- ANTECEDENT



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PN AGREEMENT



☞ Determine to what Noun/Pronoun the Pronoun refers?

☞ What is its antecedent?

☞ Derek Jeter hit *his* 3,000th hit on July 9, 2011.

☞ “his” refers back to the “Derek Jeter”

PN AGREEMENT



- ❧ Then make sure the Pronoun & its Antecedent agree in number –
 - ❧ *singular goes with singular*
 - ❧ *plural goes with plural*
- ❧ Both *Jeter* & *his* are singular
 - ❧ *therefore they agree*

EXERCISES



AGREEMENT

EXERCISES



- ❧ ****Determine which book we're using this semester:**
- ❧ **LBE**
- ❧ **LBH**
- ❧ **LSH**
- ❧ **Other**

LBE EXERCISES



∞ S-V Agreement:

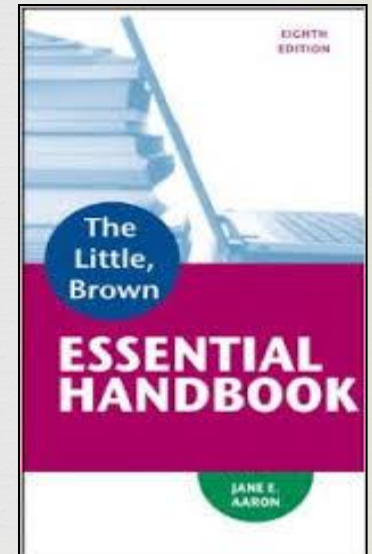
∞ Ch.29 (Additional Ex. 1-4)

∞ PNA:

∞ Ch. 31 (31.1-2)

∞ PNR:

∞ Ch. 32 (32.1)



LSH EXERCISES



œ S-V Agreement:

œ Exercises #1-3

œ (5q. each)

œ PN-Antecedent:

œ Exercises #1-2

œ (5q. each)

