

# 25.1 Subject and Verb Agreement (Number, Singular and Plural Subjects) • Practice 1

**Number: Singular and Plural** Number refers to the two forms of a word: singular and plural. Singular words indicate one; plural words indicate more than one.

NUMBER OF WORDS			
Part of Speech	Singular	Plural	Singular or Plural
Nouns	baby toy child	babies toys children	fish deer moose
Pronouns	I, he, she, it	we, they	you
Verbs	travels has gone am, is, was		(I, you, we, they) travel (I, you, we, they) have gone (you, we, they) are, were

**Singular and Plural Subjects** A singular subject must have a singular verb. A plural subject must have a plural verb. A phrase or clause that interrupts a subject and its verb does not affect subject-verb agreement.

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT	
Singular	Plural
She enjoys reading mysteries.	We have just missed the bus.
A box of cookies is in the cupboard.	Two boxes of books are missing.
That fish has unusual colors.	These fish have long whiskers.

**Exercise 1** **Determining the Number of Words.** Label each word below as *sing.* (singular), *plur.* (plural), or *both*.

**EXAMPLE:** should both

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. potatoes _____   | 6. like _____        |
| 2. are _____        | 7. women _____       |
| 3. reindeer _____   | 8. digit _____       |
| 4. defendants _____ | 9. amuses _____      |
| 5. puts _____       | 10. were given _____ |

**Exercise 2** **Making Subjects and Verbs Agree.** Complete each sentence by writing the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject. Then label each sentence *S* if the subject is singular or *P* if it is plural.

**EXAMPLE:** Some players on that team have been disqualified. (has, have) P

- That song by the Weavers \_\_\_\_\_ become a classic (has, have) \_\_\_\_\_
- The students in Mr. Long's class \_\_\_\_\_ going to the opera. (is, are) \_\_\_\_\_
- Both the trout that Dana caught \_\_\_\_\_ quite large. (was, were) \_\_\_\_\_
- The carton of Christmas decorations \_\_\_\_\_ in the basement. (is, are) \_\_\_\_\_
- The team with the most wins \_\_\_\_\_ the league. (lead, leads) \_\_\_\_\_