

# Subject-verb agreement

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16. 'No' can take either a singular or plural verb depending on the noun which follows it.

**Structure:** No + singular noun + singular verb

- No example is relevant to this case. ✓

**Structure:** No + plural noun + plural verb

- No examples are relevant to this case. ✓

**17. The word 'were' replaces 'was' in sentences that express a wish or are contrary to fact. The sentence shows things that are hypothetical, wishful, imaginary, or factually contradictory. In such sentences we use 'were'.**

### **Example:**

- **If the teacher were here, you'd have to pay.**
- **I wish it were Friday.**

**18. In optative sentences (which expresses a prayer, keen wish, curse etc. generally starts with 'may' and 'wish') the verb used is always plural irrespective of the subject. Even with singular subjects we use a plural verb.**

### **Examples.**

- **God save the world!**
- **Long live our prime minister!**
- **May he achieve success.**

**19. Amount of/ quantity of + Uncountable Noun** **the verb used will be singular.**

**Example:**

- **The amount of sugar are not sufficient to prepare a cup of tea. (Incorrect)**
- **The amount of money is not sufficient (Correct)**

**20. Nouns such as shoes, trousers, scissors, binoculars, spectacles etc. are followed by a plural verb, but if they sentence, begins with the phrase, “A pair of”, a singular verb follows.**

**Example:-**

- **My shoes are hurting my feet.**
- **A pair of leather shoes is quite costly.**

**21. Uncountable nouns, such as: furniture, equipment, stationery, poetry, machinery, information etc. are always followed by a singular verb.**

**Example:-**

- **The stationery that we use in the office is of high quality.**

**22. If a collective noun is used in the sentence, and it is spoken of as a single/ united entity, a singular verb follows. But if individual members are being referred to, or the group is divided, in that case, a plural verb follows.**

**Example:-**

- **Their army is very disciplined.**
- **The army are taking positions.**