**Agreement of Subject and Verb**

A verb must agree in number (singular or plural) with its subject. (Ex. The **student** **was** proud of her quarter grades.)

**Singular Subject** ----> verb stem plus **S**, it fits, he sits, etc.

**Plural Subject** ----> verb stem without s, they sit, they work, etc.

**Note**: Do not be confused by words that come between the subject and the verb.

The **manager**, as well as the players, **is** required to display good sportsmanship. (*Managers*, not *players*, is the subject)

**752.1 Compound Subjects**

* **Compound Subjects** joined by *or* or *nor* take a singular verb. (Ex. Neither **Bev** nor **Kendra** **goes** to the street dances)
  + **Note**: If one noun is singular and one is plural, the verb must agree with the noun that is closer to the verb. (Ex. Neither **Yoshi** nor his **friends** **sing** in the band.)
* **Compound Subjects** connected with *and* require a plural verb. (Ex. **Strength** and **balance** **are** necessary for gymnastics.)

**752.2 Delayed Subjects**: occur when the verb comes before the subject in the sentence.

* The delayed subjects must agree with the verb. (Ex. There **are** many hardworking **students** in our school.)

**752.3 “Be” Verbs**

* When a sentence contains a form of the “be” verb—and a noun comes before and after the verb—the verb must agree with the subject, not he *complement* (the noun coming after the verb).
  + Ex. The **cause** of the problem **was** the bad **brakes**.
  + Ex. The bad **brakes** **were** the **cause** of his problem.

**752.4 Special Cases:** Some nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning:

* Take a singular verb: *mumps, measles, measles, news, mathematics, economics, gallows, shambles.*
  + Ex. **Measles** **is** still considered a serious disease in many parts of the world.
* Take a plural verb*: scissors, trousers, tidings*.
  + Ex. The **scissors** **disappear** whenever I need them.

**754.1 Collective Nouns:** take a singular verb when they refer to a group as a unit, but they take a plural verb when they refer to the individuals in the group. (*faculty, committee, team, crowd…)*

* The favored **team is** losing. (unit-singular)
* The **pair** **reunite** after years apart. (individuals-plural)

**754.2 Indefinite Pronouns**:

* **Singular**: (require singular verb) *each, either, neither, on, everybody, another, anybody, everyone, nobody, everything, somebody,* and *someone.*
  + **Everybody is** invited.
* **Plural:** *both, few, many,* and *several.*
  + **Many ask** for frozen yogurt.
* **Both:** *all, any, most, none,* and *some.*

**754.3 Relative Pronouns:** (*who, which, that*) is used as the subject of a clause, the number of the verb is determined by the antecedent of the pronoun. (Antecedent: word to which the pronoun refers)

* This is one of the books **that are** required for class. (The relative pronoun *that* requires the plural verb are because its antecedent, *books*, is plural)
* **Note**: to test this type of sentence for agreement, read the “of” phrase first.
  + Of the books **that are** required for class, this is the one.