

What Is Subject-Verb Agreement?

The **subject** of a sentence is the **noun** that performs the action described in the sentence or is most closely related to the action described in the sentence. In a grammatically correct sentence, the subject and the verb should agree in terms of number, i.e., both should be either singular or plural—this is subject-verb agreement.

Example 1

Incorrect: The **details** of this procedure **is** provided on the next page.

Correct: The **details** of this procedure **are** provided on the next page.

Here, the subject—details—is plural; therefore, the verb **are** (plural) should be used instead of **is** (singular).

Note that most nouns are pluralized by adding an **s**; however, this rule is reversed in the case of verbs. Typically, in plural verbs, the final **s** is omitted. Therefore, **s** should be added to a verb if the noun is singular and it should be omitted if the noun is plural.

Example 2

Incorrect: The next **chapter include** information on laser technology.

Correct: The next **chapter includes** information on laser technology.

Here, the subject—chapter—is singular; therefore, **s** should be added to the verb **include** to make it singular.