

LESSON 6. Agreement? Concord!

Active grammar: using subject and verb agreement in speech

1. a)   Listen to the following sentences and find them in the book.

b) Think what makes them peculiar. Then discuss with your partner.

1. This Brazilian never **spends** his time on beaches.
2. An Australian or a Canadian **speaks** English which is difficult to understand.
3. Neither an American nor a Canadian **is** able to pronounce the word tomato as [tə'mɑ:təʊ].
4. Either an American or a Canadian **is** able to pronounce the word tomato as [tə'me:təʊ].
5. Either snake charming or walking on fire **is** going to amuse the kids in India.
6. Neither she nor I **am** materialistic, although we are both American.
7. A piece of salami or red hot chilly peppers **are** the basic ingredients for any Hungarian dish.
8. Either cheese or frog legs **are** very popular in France.
9. A Dutch and a Dane **are** those who love fame.
10. A kilt and a horn **are** the Scottish national symbols.
11. A loud voice, as well as hand gestures, **is** so typical of the Italians.
12. Fried chicken, not healthy fish, **is** a popular dish in America.
13. Every one of the English guests **has left** without a goodbye.
14. In Holland every one **has** a garden full of tulips.
15. The majority of the Asian population **does** kung fu.
16. One-third of Italians **are** artistic.
17. The number of people who **treats** me normally is huge but a number of people **think** that I can play the balalaika because I am Russian.
18. – Is raw fish or wood mushrooms your favourite food?
– Neither of them **is**. I am Chinese, not Japanese.

19. Every Dutch student **is** able to teach you about tulips.
20. There are many Australians who **love** nature. But there is one Australian who **doesn't love** it at all.
21. Russia is the nation that **seems** to have bought all the football clubs in England.
22. Three teapots a day keeps an Englishman at bay.

2.   Read the following grammar rules and find examples in ex. 1 to illustrate them. Write them down. Compare in groups of three.



Basic rule: A singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb.

Rule 1: Two singular subjects connected by *or* or *nor* require a singular verb.

Rule 2: Two singular subjects connected by *either / or* or *neither / nor* require a singular verb as in Rule 1.

Rule 3: When *I* is one of the two subjects connected by *either / or* or *neither / nor*, put it second and follow it with the singular verb *am*.

Rule 4: When a singular subject is connected by *or* or *nor* to a plural subject, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb.

Rule 5: When a singular and plural subject are connected by *either / or* or *neither / nor*, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb.

Rule 6: As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by *and*.

Rule 7: Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by words such as *along with*, *as well as*, *besides*, or *not*. Ignore these expressions when determining whether to use a singular or plural verb.

Rule 8: The pronouns *each*, *everyone*, *every one*, *everybody*, *anyone*, *anybody*, *someone*, and *somebody* are singular and require singular verbs. Do not be misled by what follows of.

Rule 9: With words that indicate portions – *part*, *majority*, *some*, *all*, *none*, and so forth – look at the noun in your of phrase (object of the preposition) to determine whether to use a singular or plural verb. If the object of the preposition is singular, use a singular verb. If the object of the preposition is plural, use a plural verb.

Rule 10: The expression *the number* is followed by a singular verb while the expression *a number* is followed by a plural verb.

Rule 11: When *either* and *neither* are subjects, they always take singular verbs.

Rule 12: The words *here* and *there* have generally been labeled as adverbs even though they indicate place. In sentences beginning with *here* or *there*, the subject follows the verb

Rule 13: Use a singular verb with sums of money or periods of time.

Rule 14: Sometimes the pronoun *who*, *that*, or *which* is the subject of a verb in the middle of the sentence. The pronouns *who*, *that*, and *which* become singular or plural according to the noun directly in front of them. So, if that noun is singular, use a singular verb. If it is plural, use a plural verb.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

1. A student in the Netherlands usually ... (to learn) to speak English, French, and German in school.
2. Clara is so arrogant! She, along with her boyfriend, ... (to think) she is far and away better than you or I ... (to be) just because she is two years older.
3. Americans are quite open-minded when it comes to national cuisine. The majority of them ... (to be) never afraid to accept new ideas and methods of cooking.
4. They say that as time passes Western nations ... (to be) becoming more and more materialistic. They are mainly concerned with their possessions, unlike Eastern nations where everybody ... (to be) concerned with religion and moral beliefs.
5. Despite boundaries, youth all over the world ... (to be) very ambitious. From their green years all of them strive for success.
6. China has proved to be the most progressive of the majority of all nations. Mere twenty years ... (have) passed but they grew immensely.

7. Chu is an unbelievably efficient student. He does homework from A to Z and wastes no time at all. – I couldn't agree more. Every Chinese who ... (to come) to a foreign country works to the best of his abilities.
8. Ricardo never hides his opinion and is very straightforward. Mary and I ... (to become) very offended by it sometimes!
9. Our new classmate is really practical. Either a table or chairs ... (to be) broken, he can fix them very quickly.
10. At first sight Brazilians seem to be people who ... (to be) shallow because of a great number of holidays and carnivals. In reality they are serious people.
11. Either a skirt or a dress ... (to be) best for our school fashion show.
12. – Who invented a robot? – The Japanese, of course. They are so inventive and constructive, that a number of their innovations ... (to be) pretty astonishing.
13. I believe that the French ... (to be) more family-oriented, rather than community-oriented.
14. I think that some people ... (to be) highly agreeable and submissive due to the family upbringing. Neither shouting, nor severe punishment ... (to have) favourable consequences.
15. When traveling to Islamic countries either my wife or I ... (to be) highly tolerant and respectful to their religious beliefs and we try to dress accordingly.
16. Mark ate his underdone steak without complaining. As a result he ended up in hospital with food poisoning and seventy dollars ... (to be) spent on medical treatment.
17. They are unbelievably impulsive. When they need to make a decision, everybody ... (to jump) at the first idea.
18. The majority of the Swiss ... (to be) very low-abiding. When flickers were introduced, the next day people were wearing one.

4. Hold a competition. Write a paragraph about national stereotypes and generalisations. Use the subject and verb agreement rule and the active vocabulary of the unit.