

Let the Subject and Verb Agree to Agree



Today we will study the difference between active and passive voice, point of view, and subject and verb agreement.

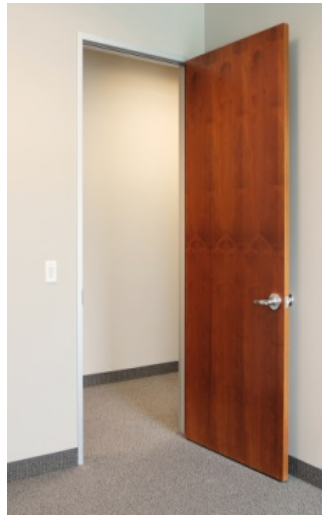
Active Voice

- The subject of the sentence is doing the action.
- John loves Mary.
 - Subject = “John”
 - Verb = “loves”
 - John is doing the action.
- Scientists have conducted various experiments.
 - Subject = “Scientists”
 - Verb = “have conducted”
 - Scientists are doing the action.



Passive Voice

- The target of the action gets put in the subject's place, and the subject no longer acts in the sentence.
- Mary is loved by John.
 - Subject = "Mary"
 - Verb = "is"
 - The action is performed upon Mary.



Active Voice

You must not leave
the door open.

Passive Voice

The door must not be
left open.

Active vs. Passive

Active:

- Dr. Larson invented the polygraph.
- The committee is considering the bill.
- Jessica chased the dog.

Passive:

- The polygraph was invented by Dr. Larson.
- The bill is being considered by the committee.
- The dog was chased by Jessica.

Relevance?

- Active voice clearly and directly expresses a thought.
- Passive voice can make a sentence more wordy, vague, and confusing.
- The responsibility of the writer is to clearly convey the intended message to the reader without being physically present.
- Papers that are easier to read are easier to grade.

Practice

Identify whether the sentence is active or passive. If passive, make it active.

1. The ball was kicked by Tom.
2. Rachel skipped the stone across the pond.
3. John turned off the lights.
4. The pool was swam in by the children.
5. The kids watched the football game.
6. The theme that was most dealt with by the 16th century poets was love.

Point of View

- The perspective from which the story is told
- Also known as the “POV”
- Who is telling the story?
- How much does this person know?

First Person

- The narrator is a character in the story and is telling the story.
- Uses the pronouns: I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, etc.
- Can be omniscient or limited

Second Person

- Uses the pronouns: you, your, and yours.
 - Rarely used in fiction.
 - Commonly used in speeches, cookbooks, advertisements.
 - Forms a conversation-like tone between the author and the reader.
- ❖ You've never seen a better deal than this. Come in today for rates as low as 1%.

Third Person

- The narrator is telling the story from someone else's perspective .
- The narrator is not a character in the story.
- Uses the pronouns: he, she, it, his, her, its, himself, herself, itself.
- Can be omniscient or limited.

Practice

Determine from what point of view the following sentences are written:

- Ashley could hear her stomach grumbling and looked around quickly. She thought, “I am glad nobody heard that.”
- I ran towards my house and could hear my dog barking. “Oh no!” I thought. “My neighbor is going to be so mad.”
- Kate couldn’t believe that her special day had come. After years of struggling, she would finally graduate. She sat, remembering everyone who had encouraged her.

Q & A

You have

Questions

We have

Answers

Subject and Verb Agreement

Session II

1. When the subject of a sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by and, use a plural verb.
 1. She and her friends are at the fair.
2. When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by “or” or “nor,” use a singular verb.
 1. The book or the pen is in the drawer.
3. When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by “or” or “nor,” the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is nearer the verb.
 1. The boy or his friends run every day.
 2. Neither his friends nor the boy runs every day.

Practice 1/3

1. He and his brothers is/are at the mall.
2. My mother and her sisters were/was arguing.
3. The laptop or the table is/are in the car.
4. Either her mother or her father is/are picking her up.
5. The girl or her friends shop/shops every day.
6. Neither her friends nor the girl shop/shops every day.

1. Do not be misled by a phrase that comes between the subject and the verb. The verb agrees with the subject, not with a noun or pronoun in the phrase.

1. One of the boxes **is** open.

2. The people *who listen to that music* **are** few.

3. The team captain, *as well as his players*, **is** anxious.

4. The book, *including all the chapters in the first section*, **is** boring.

5. The woman *with all the dogs* **walks** down my street.

1. The words each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one are singular and require a singular verb.

1. Each of these hot dogs **is** juicy.

2. Everybody **knows** Mr. Jones.

3. Either **is** correct.

2. Nouns such as civics, mathematics, measles, and news require singular verbs.

1. The news **comes** on at six.

3. Nouns such as scissors, tweezers, trousers, and shears require plural verbs.

1. These scissors **are** dull.

2. His trousers **are** made of cotton.

Practice 2/3

1. One of the girls are/is sick.
2. The bike, including all of its new gadgets, cost/costs too much.
3. Everybody know/knows that.
4. Either is/are correct.
5. Mathematics is/are my favorite subject.
6. The news is/are about to come on.
7. The tweezers is/are dull.
8. His trousers looks/look dirty.

1. In sentences beginning with there is or there are, the subject follows the verb. Since “there” is not the subject, the verb agrees with what follows.

1. There **are** many questions.

2. There **is** a question.

2. Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but that are considered singular and take a singular verb.

1. The team **runs** during practice.

2. The committee **decides** how to proceed.

3. Expressions such as with, together with, including, accompanied by, in addition to, or as well do not change the number of the subject.

1. All of the books, including yours, **are** in that box.

Practice 3/3

1. There is/are pens in the office.
2. There is/are a ruler in the classroom.
3. The family chat/chats on Skype.
4. The team meet/meets for pizza.
5. All of the books, including his, is/are right there.
6. Each one of the girls, including them, is/are going to the party.

Q&A

You have

Questions

We have

Answers

Let's Connect

Website:

<http://qep.savannahstate.edu>

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