

## What is the rule about agreement?

Subjects, verbs, and pronouns must all agree.

## What does that mean?

Make subjects, verbs, and pronouns *all singular* or *all plural*.

## Agreement sub-rules you need to know:

- 1. Subjects are never in prepositional phrases.**
  - *Each* of the boys in class has *his* own computer.
  - The repetition of strong drum beats in electronic music (is, are) bad.
- 2. All “one” words and “body” words are singular and therefore take a singular verb and a singular pronoun.**
  - If *anyone* is late for church *he* or *she* should call Dr. Brown.
  - *Everybody* in class is supposed to wear (his, his or her, their) Halloween costume.
- 3. “There” is never a subject.**
  - There *are* very few cute *boys* in our class.
  - There (is, are) never enough smart guys in class to make it interesting.
- 4. Ignore phrases such as *along with*, *as well as*, *in addition to*, and *together with*.**
  - *English*, along with physics, *is* making my life worth living.
- 5. Singular subjects joined by AND are plural, unless they join to make one thing.**
  - My *mom and my dad are* coming back to Wilmore next week.
  - **Exception:** *Macaroni and cheese is* my favorite food
    - The words macaroni and cheese combine to make one thing, so a singular verb is necessary.
- 6. When subjects are joined by OR/NOR, make the verb agree with the part of the subject nearer to the verb.**
  - My mom or my *dad calls* me each week to see if I’m still doing well.
  - Neither the dog nor the two *cats were* happy that I was gone all day.
  - My parents or my *girlfriend is* giving me a ride to Wal-Mart.
- 7. A linking verb (to be) agrees with the subject, not with what comes after.**
  - My biggest *problem is* my failing grades in English.
- 8. Be consistent.**
  - The *committee is* ready to cast *its* votes.
  - The committee *members are* ready to cast *their* votes.