

# Subject-verb agreement

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Not only does this document deal with subject-verb agreement, but we are also going to look at the ‘phenomenon’ of ‘it’ when Filipinos speak or write.

Let us begin with subject-verb agreement.

For any sentence with a ‘subject and verb’ there has to be an agreement between the singular and the plural.

The rules are simple (to a point), Singular subjects require a singular verb.

Halimbawa:

The **car** in the drive **is** blue. (The ‘car’ is a singular subject, therefore the verb ‘is’ must also be singular.

The **cars** in the drive **are** blue. (The ‘cars’ is a plural subject; therefore the verb ‘are’ has to be plural.

## **BASIC RULE:**

- Singular subjects must have singular verbs.  
Plural subjects take plural verbs.

My advice to students is, to ensure that you know your subject verb agreement because any errors will be seen as basic grammar errors by any examiner, which will reduce your band score.

Examples of common errors by students:

I has noticed that the chart...

Never apologize to others for their misunderstanding of who you are.

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Computer are the main reason...

When we look at the chart we sees...

Some of the other thing is.....

Check the sentences above and practice making sentences with the correct form.

Check the document in the following link for more information.

Now let us move on to the ‘mysterious **‘it’**

This word is used for ‘any’ noun, so it would seem in the Filipino grammar world.

Computer are not a necessity but it are great for entertainment..

The graphs show... and it represents....

#### Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun.
- Writers use pronouns to keep from using the same noun over and over again.
- An **antecedent** is the noun that is referred to by the noun.
- When the **hole** has water in **it**, you can sometimes see a tree frog there.  
(antecedent = hole) (pronoun = it)
- After the **grubs** become **beetles**, **they** eat **their** way out of the chambers.  
(antecedent = grubs/beetles) (pronoun = they/their)
- The young **boy** watched the bluebird until **he** saw the babies.  
(antecedent = boy) (pronoun = he)

**‘IT’ is for singular nouns not plural nouns.**

**‘they’ (subject) ‘them’ (object) ‘their’ (possessive) are for plural nouns.**

Please read the following document by clicking on the link.

Practice by making sentences. Repetition is the best method to get the rules firmly embedded in your head.