

Subject-Verb Agreement Grammar Tutorial Worksheet

For the Tutor

When struggling with a subject-verb agreement errors, ESL writers often have trouble identifying the correct subject of the sentence, just as native English-speaking writers do. This can be especially difficult when *there is* or *there are* is used and when a word like *that* is the subject of a relative clause.

When the words *there*, *that*, *which*, *who*, and *what* stand in as the subject of a clause, encourage your writer to look for the real subject elsewhere in the sentence to determine agreement. For example, in the sentence "There is a penny on the sidewalk," the real subject is *penny*, so the word *there* is treated as singular.

For the ESL Writer

Study these examples.

CORRECTED EXAMPLES

- There *is* three prerequisites for this class. (incorrect)
- There *are* three prerequisites for this class. (correct)

In the above example, the word *there* is standing in for the real subject *prerequisites*.

- Every teenager knows how to choose clothes that *flatters* her figure. (incorrect)
- Every teenager knows how to choose clothes that *flatter* her figure. (correct)

In the above example, the word *that* is standing in for the real subject *clothes*.

Correct the following.

PRACTICE SENTENCES

- Alexina found two online articles that *is* good for her assignment.
- Who *are* Sergey's and Mohammed's English teacher this semester?
- There *is* two sorority sisters in my class, Fatima and Thoa.
- My grandmother knows the Latin name of every plant that *grow* in her garden.
- Which *are* older, Enrique or Miguel?