

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Subjects and their corresponding verbs need to agree. To determine if there is a subject-verb agreement problem, first identify the subject. The next steps is to determine whether the subject is singular or plural and then make sure the verb agrees with the subject (i.e. if the subject is plural then the verb must be).

Most nouns form plurals by adding “s” or “es”.

Singular	Plural
House	Houses
Book	Books
Tax	Taxes
Card	Cards

Most present-tense (third person) singular verbs end in “s” or “es”

I		he	
You	<i>think</i>	she	<i>thinks</i>
We	<i>do</i>	it	<i>does</i>
They			

A rule that can help you with agreement is to think of the “s” on the end of a verb as standing for singular. Thus, if the subject is singular there should be an s (or in some cases “es”) at the end of the verb.

- 1.** Check if the subject is singular or plural (most nouns end with “s” or “es “ if they are plural).
- 2.** Make sure the verb agrees with the subject -most singular (third person) verbs end with “s” or “es”.

The “ s “ at the end of a verb stands for singular!