

S/V Agreement

Subjects and verbs must agree

	Example	Commentary
1	The test <u>is</u> painless. The patient <u>exercises</u> daily.	Here are two simple examples.
2	There <u>are</u> several causes of the condition.	The subject is plural.
3	The patient <u>must exercise</u> daily. (The patient <u>exercises</u> daily).	If a modal is present, the agreement occurs in the modal.
4	Measles <u>is</u> a children's disease.	Some subjects end in "s" but are in fact singular.
5	Medication <u>is</u> generally prescribed.	Noncount nouns are considered singular subjects. ("Medication" here is noncount).
6	Medication and bed rest <u>are</u> generally prescribed.	When the subject is compound, it is considered plural.
7	Medication, along with with bed rest, <u>is</u> generally prescribed. Anacin, together with other analgesics, <u>is</u> frequently given.	The subject is considered singular with these expressions.
8	Diagnosing patients <u>takes</u> great skill.	Gerunds are considered singular.
9	The medications that the doctor <u>recommends</u> <u>are</u> very effective. He <u>is reading</u> about the kidneys , which <u>are</u> indeed vital organs.	The main verb agrees with the subject of the main clause, and the verb in the relative clause agrees with the subject of the relative clause.

Certain pronouns are always singular

10	Every man, woman and child <u>needs</u> food, clothing and shelter. Each of the patients <u>has</u> a chart.	This subject is singular despite the fact that it may seem plural.
11	Nobody <u>likes</u> dieting.	This subject is also singular.
12	Other pronouns that take singular subjects: anybody/anyone, somebody/someone, no one, nothing, something, each	

Generally, the subject of a prepositional phrase in the subject position is the subject to which the verb must agree

13	Several sections of the hospital <u>have been renovated</u> .	The subject is considered plural.
14	One of the patients <u>has</u> pneumonia.	The subject is singular.
15	The cause of both eating disorders <u>is</u> the same.	The subject is singular.

Exception: For expressions of quantity, the verb is determined by the noun following "of"

Some of the book <u>is</u> boring .	One-half of the patients <u>are</u> pleased.
Two-thirds of the money <u>is</u> mine.	

Note: If you wish further examples (this chart only summarizes the most frequently occurring cases) or would like to practice with some exercises, Chapter 6 in Azar covers agreement.