



One and many

CAPS Statement

Language Structures & Conventions

Working with words and sentences:

- Builds on use of subject verb concord.
For example: there **is** one book / there **are** two books ...

Note

Remember:

- *singular* means: one (single).
- *plural* means: many (more than one).
- the **subject** of a sentence is the main person / people or thing / things
- a **verb** is a doing word / an action.

A singular subject names only one person or thing.

A singular **subject** uses a singular verb.

Singular **verbs** usually end with -s, -es, or -ies.

For example: The **dog** barks at the stranger.



Plural subjects name more than one person or thing. Plural **subjects** use plural verbs.

Plural **verbs** usually do not end with -s, -es, or -ies.

For example: The **cats** look for mice in the garden.

Activity 1

Read each sentence carefully. Under line the verbs (action words).

Example

Mrs Lundi gave each child a piece of cake.

- ① The elephants squirt water from their trunks.
- ② People bought tickets for the music concert.
- ③ I sit on my granny's lap.
- ④ Our team comes first in every race.
- ⑤ Everyone laughed at the funny clown.



Activity 2

Look at each sentence. Decide if the subject is singular or plural. Choose the correct verb from the brackets to complete the sentence. An example has been done for you.

Example

The man **puts** petrol into his car for the long journey. (put / **puts**)

The men **put** diesel into their trucks for the long trip. (**put** / puts)



- ① We _____ to the beach in the December holidays. (am going / are going)
- ② I _____ to the seaside in the summer holidays. (am going / are going)
- ③ We _____ to the beach in the December holidays. (am going / are going)
- ④ The girls _____ beautiful in their new dresses. (look / looks)
- ⑤ This weekend, my aunt _____ to stay. (is coming / are coming)
- ⑥ My cousins _____ to stay this weekend. (is coming / are coming)

Teacher Tip

A reminder that concord means agreement – in this case, agreement between the subject and verb.

Subject / verb agreement can be confusing.

The rule for singular / plural verbs is the opposite of the rule for singular / plural nouns.

Nouns ending with **s** are usually plural (dogs, pencils).

Verbs ending with **s** are usually singular (eats, plays).

Note: Explain that a team is singular. It is made up of many people, but it is one group.

