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#### Catherine's Grammar Explanation: Subject – verb agreement

Hello Peng! Well done! Kaz is right, and so are you – it's *my sisters and my father **live** in London.*

It's important in English that the subject of a sentence agrees with the verb. So in the simple present tense, when the subject is singular, we add *-s* to the verb, like this:

*My father **lives** in Beijing.*

With the verb 'to be' we say:

*Chinese food **is** delicious*

And an *-ing* subject is also single:

*Living in London **costs** a lot of money*

Now when the subject is **plural**, or if the verb has more than one subject, the verb changes:

*My **sisters live** in Beijing.*

*My mother and my father **live** in London.*

But, if we use *each* or *every*, the verb remains singular. Listen:

*Every resident **has** to pay tax.*

*Each address **is** listed in a special register.*

Finally, the subject and verb must agree with each other, even if they get separated by extra information like this:

*Her parents, despite retiring several years ago, still **live** in the city.*

So to sum up: singular subjects take singular verbs, but plural or multiple subjects take plural verbs, even when they are separated from their subjects. Subjects with *each* and *every* usually take a singular verb.

Ok, that's all from me. Good luck with your grammar challenge!

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### Grammar Tables: Subject – verb agreement

Singular subjects take singular verbs, but plural or multiple subjects take plural verbs, even when they are separated from their subjects. Subjects with *each* and *every* usually take a singular verb.

| subject                      | verb                    |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>My father</i>             | <b><i>lives</i></b>     | <i>in Beijing.</i>            |
| <i>Chinese food</i>          | <b><i>is</i></b>        | <i>delicious.</i>             |
| <i>Living in Beijing</i>     | <b><i>costs</i></b>     | <i>a lot of money.</i>        |
| <i>My brothers</i>           | <b><i>live</i></b>      | <i>in Tokyo.</i>              |
| <i>Chinese pancakes</i>      | <b><i>are</i></b>       | <i>delicious.</i>             |
| <i>Reading and writing</i>   | <b><i>are</i></b>       | <i>important skills.</i>      |
| <b><i>Every resident</i></b> | <b><i>has</i></b>       | <i>to pay tax.</i>            |
| <b><i>Each address</i></b>   | <b><i>is listed</i></b> | <i>in a special register.</i> |