

BBC Learning English

Grammar Challenge

Subject / Verb Agreement 1



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Error Correction: Subject / Verb Agreement 1:

Here is the Grammar Expert's text from *Grammar Challenge – Subject / Verb Agreement 1*. There are eight mistakes in the text. Try to find and correct the mistakes, then listen and check your answers.

Hello Peng! Well done! Kaz is right, and so are you – it's *my sisters and my father lives 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 noun, like this:

My father lives in Beijing.

With the verb 'to be' we say:

Chinese food is delicious

And an *-ing* subject are also single:

Living in London costs a lot of money

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

My sisters live in Beijing.

My mother and my father living in London.

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

Every resident has to pay tax.

Any address is listed in a special register.

Finally, the subject and verb mustn't 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 plural verb.

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

KEY (corrected mistakes are underlined)

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:

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With the verb 'to be' we say:

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And an –ing subject is also single:

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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!