

To: Parents and teachers of Grade 4 - 6 learners

Topic: Subject – Verb Agreement (Concord)

**Message Objectives:** To help learners understand the subject-verb agreement  
To teach learners the three basic rules of subject-verb agreement

**Message:**

Subject-verb agreement refers to the way in which a subject and verb work together to make a sentence correct. It means that the subject and verb in a sentence should agree or match in number, otherwise the sentence will not sound right. For example, if the subject is singular, the verb must be singular and if the subject is plural, the verb must be plural. For learners to understand this better they must apply basic rules when speaking and writing.

**Subject-Verb Agreement rules:**

**Rule 1:** A **singular subject** uses a **singular verb** e.g. *is, was, has, does* or *verbs ending in s or es*

**Rule 2:** A **plural subject** uses a **plural verb** e.g. *are, were, have, do* or *verbs without s or es endings*.

**Rule 3:** The pronoun '**YOU**' uses a plural verb.

**Rule 4:** Subjects that are joined by '**and**' in a sentence use a plural verb. Subjects that are joined by 'either/or', 'neither/nor' use a singular verb.

From: Nombulelo Baba  
nombulelob@nect.org.za

Reference:

[Intermediate Phase ATPs for 2021 \(education.gov.za\)](https://www.education.gov.za)  
[PSRIP IP — National Education Collaboration Trust \(nect.org.za\)](https://nect.org.za)  
<https://www.toppr.com/guides/english/verb/subject-verb-concord/>