Ph.D. (Ag. Engg.) – Final Year, II Semester2019-20

Course : Technical Writing and Communication Skills [PGS-502]

Topic : Concord in English Grammar

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English Grammatical Concord means the agreement of the subject with the verb and object, as “basic agreement between different sentence constituents”.

**Rule 1. Subject and verb concord:** When the subject is in a sentence is singular, the verb should also be singular.

Example- She (singular subject) goes (singular verb)

**Rule 2.** Patient was ***accompanied with***his friends. Here sentence has a error because- ***A company*** takes no preposition in Active voice and it takes (By) as its preposition in Passive voice. That’s why ***accompanied with*** is not the correct phrase.

**Rule 3. Subject and verb concord :** When everyone or everybody is used the object must be singular, not plural.

Example- 1. Everybody knows his or her name.

2. Everybody knows their name. (incorrect)

**Rule 4.** Because of his innocence he cannot distinguish a cheat ***for*** an honest person. Here (for) is not a correct preposition because while using distinguish, we use (from) between first person and second person. Means we replace (for) with (from).

**Rule 5.** Mandative Subjunctive Concord-When, suggestion, wish, demand, recommendation or resolution is used in a sentence the verb that follows must be plural, whether the subject is singular or plural.

Example -1. The board has recommended that the manager resign.

2. I pray that God help me on my upcoming tests.

**Rule 6.** Rekha was trying for admission ***in*** the engineering college even though her parents wanted her to take medicine.Here (in) is a wrong preposition because The correct phrase is (Admission to something) not Admission in something.

**Rule 7. The Principle of proximity:** The Principle states that, when there is more nouns or pronouns at the place of subject of the verb will agree with the last noun near to the verb.

Example - If Mohan fights election, hos parents, friends or family is to be away.

**Rule 8.** Both **prefer and preferable** take (to) in preposition.

Example – 1.He prefers coffee to tea

2.He prefers reading **than** writing

**Rule 9. Many – a Concord:**  When **many-a is used ,**the verb and the noun that follows must be singular.

Example 1. Many a candidate speaks bad English expressions.

2. Many a girl is here.

**Rule 10.** She died **of** overwork last night.Here (of) is not the correct preposition because, Died of = Death due to disease. Die from = Death due to cause( any disaster, hunger, overload, overwork).

**Rule 11.**  **A pair of** Concord: When “a pair of” or used, the verb must be singular.

Example- 1. She has lost a pair of stockings.

2. A pair of spectacles.

3. A pair of trousers (not trouser)lies(not lie) on the bed

4. A pair of scissors lies(not lie) on the table.

**Rule.12** Notional Concord –Notional concord or Notional agreement is also called collective noun concord. A collective oun: is noun that stands for many units that constitute that single word. It also refers to an agreement of verbs with their subjects and of pronouns with their antecedent nouns, on the basis of meaning rather than grammatically form. Also known as *Synesis* Notional can also be termed differently as Semantic agreement, agreement *ad sensum*, logical agreement and construction *ad sensum* . Notional Agreement with certain plural nouns and collective nouns when antecedent plural noun to a verb considered a single entity takes a singular verb irrespective to grammar.

Example- 1. An audience with means people who watch programs.

2. The congregation, which means worshipers.

3. A club, which means the association of members.

**Rule 13. Parenthesis**: The Parenthesis statement is an additional statement to what has already been said before.

Note- A parenthesis statement should not be considered on choosing the verb . Parenthesis a word, phrase or sentence inserted as an extra idea explanation into a sentence or passage . In writing it is usually separated from the rest by brackets **()**, Dash “-” or commas”**,**”

Example - The teacher, not her students **is** in the class. Here ‘**is**’ rightly placed because ‘not her students’ is just parenthesis , and it has nothing to do with the

selection or agreement of the verb.

**Rule 14.** When two subjects are joined by ‘Either or, neither nor’,the verb agrees with the subject that is near.

Example- 1. Either Chetna or Yamini is to do this work.

2. Neither Shashak nor his friends are studying .

**Rule 15.** ‘ One of’ always takes a plural noun after it .

Example- 1. It is one of the important days in my life.

2. One of my friends promoted.

**Rule 16.** Accompaniment concord-When any of these following words are used, the subject of the clause would br the noun and pronoun that comes before the marker of accompaniment.

Words like as much as, alongside, as well as, together with, no less than, in association with, including, like, with, and in collaboration with, etc.

Example- 1. Mary, as well as her friends, is (not are) beautiful.

The answer is, “is” because Mary is the noun that comes before as well as, hence Mary is the subject and it is a singular noun hence a singular verb.

**Rule 17.** When two singular nouns joined by ‘and’ point out the same thing or person , the verb will be singular.

Example- 1. Bread and butter makes a good breakfast.

2. The Principal and the Head Master are on leave .

**Rule 18. More than concord:** When than is used, the word or number that comes after more than will determine the next verb.

Example 1. More than two apples are (not is) here.

2. More than one orange is (not are) here.

**Rule 19. Indefinite pronoun concord**: When any of the following words are used , you should use a singular verb such words as, everybody, everything ,everyone ,everywhere and each the next verb must be singular.

Example 1. Nothing goes(not go)

2. Everybody likes(not like) him.

3. Everybody thinks(not think) he stole the money.

**Rule 20. Plurale Tantum** : Pluralia (Plurale) tantum is a noun that comes in plural form and does not have a singular variant for referring to a single object. Some of these words have ‘s’ at their end, while some do not .However , whenever any of the following forms appear , it must receive a singular verb.

* Diseases : Shingles ,Mumps, Measles, etc,
* Subjects : Physics, economics, mathematics, civics, etc.
* Games : Snakes and ladders, billiards, bowls and skittles.

**Rule 21. Uncountable nouns of concord**: Countable nouns are nouns that can be quantified in units and numbers, that is, are nouns that can be counted.

For Example- Chairs, Tables, Phones, and so forth.

Uncountable nouns are nopuns thast cannot be quantified in units and numbers.

For example- Water, information, Equipment.

**Rule 22.** Double title subject concord

When two subjects are joined together by “and” but the two subjects refer to only one person or thimg, a singular verb should be used.

Example- Our principal and mathematics teacher knows me.

**Rule 23. Co-ordinate concord** : When two subjewcts are joined together by and, the verb to be used should be plural.

Example- 1. James and Jhon are (not is) here.

2. Elizabeth and Jhonson know (not Knows) me.

**Rule 24. Categorization concord** :When a collective name, denoting category (not a collective noun) is used, the verb to be used must be plural.

Catogaries like: the poor, the rich, the wealthy, the successful, the gifted, the weak, the young in spirit, the handicapped, the helpless, and so forth. The verb to be used should be plural.

Example- 1. The poor need help(not helps or needs) from government.

2. The young are (not is disobedient.)

**Rule 25. Plural Number concord** :When amount or unit is mentioned in a statement, units such as five thousand, three hundred, parent, twenty meters, five times, and so on. The next verb must be singular.

Example- 1. Two pounds for flour is (not are) too few to bake a cake.

2. Ten percent of my earnings goes (not go) to my wife.

**Rule 26. Every + Plural number concord** : When every precedes a plural, the next verb is plural.

Examples- 1. Every ten liters of oil bought come (not comes) with a bonus of an extra liter.

2. Every man (not men) likes Football.

**Rule 27. Most or Much Concord** : When most is used, the verb will either be singular or plural, depending on whether the referent is a countable or countable noun.

Example- Much of the water has (not have) been spilled.

**Rule 28. All Concord**: When all appears, it means either every or all people.

When all means everything, the verb to be used should be singular but when all means all the people, the verb to be used should be plural.

Examples- All are already seated in the hall.

In the above sentence “All” means all the people are already seated in the hall hence a plural verb.

**Rule 29. Interrogative concord :** Subjectsnever come before verbs in questions .

Example- Who is the class advisor ?

**Rule 30. Prepositional phrases concord :** It is interesting to note that, phrase between the subject and verb do not affect the agreement .

Example – The message of the painting is very clear.

**Rule 31.** The subject will always be placed after the verb , if sentences start with ‘here or’ ‘there ’.

Example- Here are the books that you love to read.

**Rule 32.** Title of the books, movies, novels, and other similar works, considered singular noun and take singular verb.

Example- Satyakaam is a movie starring Dharmendra.