**Grammar Lesson: Subject-Verb Agreement in Sentences**

Subject-verb agreement means that the subject of a sentence and its verb must match in **number** (singular or plural) and **person** (first, second, or third). Incorrect agreement is a common mistake, so understanding the rules can help you avoid errors.

**1. Singular and Plural Subjects**

* **Singular subjects** take singular verbs.
  + Example: "He runs every morning."
* **Plural subjects** take plural verbs.
  + Example: "They run every morning."

**Key Notes:**

* A singular verb often ends with **-s** in the present tense.
  + "He eats lunch at noon."
* Plural verbs do not have **-s** in the present tense.
  + "They eat lunch at noon."

**2. Auxiliary Verbs and Agreement**

Auxiliary (helping) verbs must also agree with the subject:

* **Do/Does**:
  + "Does he know the answer?" (Singular)
  + "Do they know the answer?" (Plural)
* **Be Verbs (am, is, are, was, were)**:
  + Singular: "She is reading a book." / "He was late to class."
  + Plural: "They are reading books." / "We were late to class."

**3. Common Errors in Subject-Verb Agreement**

**Using "Don’t" vs. "Doesn’t":**

* **Doesn’t** is used with singular third-person subjects (he, she, it).
  + Correct: "He doesn’t have a car."
* **Don’t** is used with all plural subjects and with **I, you, we, they**.
  + Correct: "They don’t have a car."

**Using "Was" vs. "Were":**

* **Was** is used with singular subjects (I, he, she, it).
  + Correct: "She was at the park."
* **Were** is used with plural subjects (we, you, they).
  + Correct: "They were at the park."

**Using "Is" vs. "Are":**

* **Is** is used with singular subjects.
  + Correct: "The dog is barking."
* **Are** is used with plural subjects.
  + Correct: "The dogs are barking."

**Examples to Illustrate Proper Agreement**

**Singular Subjects:**

* "She doesn’t like coffee."
* "He is playing the guitar."
* "The book was on the table."

**Plural Subjects:**

* "They don’t know the answer."
* "We are going to the park."
* "The students were studying together."

**Mixed Examples:**

* "I don’t understand the problem." (First person singular + don’t)
* "Does he play football?" (Third person singular + does)
* "They were talking when I arrived." (Plural subject + were)

**Special Cases to Watch For**

1. **Indefinite Pronouns**: Words like **everyone, someone, anybody, nobody** are singular.
   * Correct: "Everyone is invited to the party."
   * Incorrect: "Everyone are invited to the party."
2. **Collective Nouns**: Words like **team, group, family** can be singular or plural depending on context.
   * Singular: "The team is winning the match."
   * Plural: "The team are wearing their uniforms."
3. **Subjects Joined by "And"**:
   * Plural: "Tom and Sarah are coming to the party."
   * Singular if referring to one thing: "Macaroni and cheese is my favorite dish."

**Summary**

* Ensure the verb matches the subject in both number (singular/plural) and person.
* Use auxiliary verbs (do/does, was/were, is/are) correctly based on the subject.
* Be mindful of special cases like indefinite pronouns and collective nouns.

By following these rules and examples, you can improve your grammar and avoid common subject-verb agreement errors.