

CONCORD

Welcome

RULES OF
CONCORD

GRAMMAR
CLINIC

A. Latha

- **Concord is the agreement in number and person between the subject and the verb in a sentence.**

- ❖ **The Simple rule is that the verb should agree with the subject in number and person.**
- ❖ **When the subject is third person singular, the verb must be singular.**
- ❖ **When the subject is third person plural, the verb must be plural.**
 - **The pencil is short.**
 - **Pencils are short.**
 - **A boy eats chocolate.**
 - **Boys eat chocolates.**

❖ **Two or more singular subjects combine by and take a plural verb.**

➤ **A boy *and* a girl have come here.**

➤ **The cow *and* the calf need grass.**

❖ **When the two subjects joined by and are treated as one unit, then a singular verb is used.**

➤ **Bread *and* butter is my favourite breakfast.**

➤ **Slow *and* steady wins the race.**

- ❖ **When the two subjects joined by *and* refer to the same person, a singular verb is used.**
 - **The philosopher *and* parliamentarian is seventy.**
 - **The cricketer *and* writer is in town today.**

❖ If the subjects represent two different persons, the article *the* or the possessive pronoun *my* is repeated. Then the verb will be plural.

- The philosopher and *the* parliamentarian are great friends.
- My wife and *my secretary* do not like each other.

❖ **When two or more singular subjects are joined *by or, nor, either ...or or neither ..nor*, the verb will be singular.**

➤ **Jim or his brother is sure to come.**

➤ ***Either* Hari or Ravi is certain to win a medal.**

➤ ***Neither* the athlete nor the coach is at fault.**

❖ When the two subjects connected by *either**or, neither...nor, etc.*, are of different numbers, the plural subjects is placed second and a plural verb is used.

➤ Neither the Principal nor the teachers beat the students.

➤ Either my mother or my sisters are sure to be there.

❖ **When two singular subjects are connected by *not only ...but also*, the verb will be singular.**

➤ ***Not only Lata but also her sister is an engineer.***

➤ ***Not only cinema, but also T.V. has influenced our life.***

❖ **When two singular subjects are connected by *as well as* the verb will be singular.**

➤ **Mr. Valluvan, *as well as* his wife, is a vegetarian.**

➤ **A car, *as well as* fridge, is a necessity these days.**

❖ When two subjects are joined by *with*, *together with*, *along with* or in addition to, the verb agrees with the subject mentioned first.

- My sister, *along with* her two children, has arrived.
- The house, *with* all the furniture, is being auctioned.

❖ When the subject of the verb is a relative pronoun, the verb agrees in number and person with antecedent of the relative pronoun.

- You, who are the captain of the team, have to show them the way.**
- Ramesh, who is a well known writer, is talking to us today.**

❖ **Some titles of books which appear to be plural, are treated as singular as they denote one unit.**

➤ ***Arabian Nights* is an interesting book.**

➤ ***Arms and the Man* was written by G.B. Shaw.**

❖ **Similarly, singular nouns which have a plural form are also treated as singular.**

➤ ***Physics* is an important subject.**

➤ ***Measles* is sometimes dangerous.**

❖ Collective nouns are followed by singular verbs if the nouns are mean to refer to the group as one unit.

- The committee is seized of the matter.**
- The government has already approved it.**
- The audience has been waiting for long.**

❖ If however, the collective noun refers to the individual members of the group, then it takes a plural verb.

➤ The audience are all children.

➤ The committee were divided in their opinion.

❖ For the purpose of concord, uncountable nouns are treated as singular.

➤ Gold is precious metal.

➤ Water is essential for life.

