

## VERB AGREEMENT AND TENSE EXPLANATION

A verb must agree with its subject in number and person. In other words, if the subject is singular, the verb must be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural. Also if the subject is the third person (e.g. he, she, or it), the verb must be the third person form of the verb.

A verb must also reflect the tense (time) of the sentence. If the action of the sentence happened yesterday, for example, the verb must be in the past tense.

When we say that the verb agrees with the rest of the sentence, we mean that the verb matches in number, person, and tense (time).

Here are some examples of verbs that do agree with subjects:

### Examples:

The boys were hungry.  
(third person plural)

She plays softball.  
(third person singular)

I drive to work every day.  
(first person singular)

We ate lunch together at school.  
(first person plural)

Here are some examples of common mistakes made when the subject and verb do not agree with each other:

### Common mistakes:

#### ***Number Agreement***

You is watching television. (NO!)

You are watching television. (YES!)

Gerald dance to the beat of the music. (NO!)

Gerald dances to the beat of the music. (YES!)

#### ***Tense (time) Agreement***

He is going to the store yesterday. (NO!)

He went to the store yesterday. (YES!)

Tomorrow, Barbara singing at the club. (NO!)

Tomorrow, Barbara will sing at the club. (YES!)

**Or** Tomorrow, Barbara is singing at the club. (YES!)

