

# Subject-Verb Agreement

The subject and verb in a sentence must **agree**, or work together. A singular subject needs a singular verb. A plural subject needs a plural verb.

Use the following rules for verbs that tell about the present time.

- If the subject is a singular noun or *he, she, or it*, add *-s* or *-es* to most verbs.

The wagon *creaks*. It *lurches* along.

- If the subject is a plural noun or *I, you, we, or they*, do not add *-s* or *-es* to the verb.

The oxen *pull* the wagon. They *strain* uphill.

- For the verb *be*, use *am* and *is* to agree with singular subjects and *are* to agree with plural subjects.

I *am* hot. Thomas *is* happy. The patriots *are* loyal. We *are* late.

- A **collective noun** names a group, such as *family, team, and class*. A collective noun is singular if it refers to a group acting as one: The family *rides* in the wagon. A collective noun is plural if it refers to members of the group acting individually: The family *are arguing* about the tax.