

ATI TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE REVIEW SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

LANGUAGE USAGE SUBJECT- VERB AGREEMENT

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UNDERSTANDING SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

The subject of a sentence must always agree with its verb. This means that the subject and verb must both be either singular or plural. **Subject-Verb Agreement questions** address whether there is a match between single and plural subjects and verbs.

Consider the following examples

**Her niece was never in the mood to play hopscotch.
Correct.**

The subject of this sentence, *her niece*, is singular. The verb, *was*, is also singular. This sentence has subject-verb agreement because the subject and verb are both singular.

**Her nieces was never in the mood to play hopscotch.
Incorrect.**

In this case, the subject is plural: *her nieces* refers to more than one niece. This sentence requires the plural verb *were*.

**Here nieces were never in the mood to play
hopscotch. Correct.**

The singular verb *was* in the incorrect sentence has been replaced by the plural verb *were*. Now the subject and the verb are both plural, so the subject and verb agree.

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UNDERSTANDING SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

The subject of a sentence must always agree with its verb. This means that the subject and verb must both be either singular or plural. **Subject-Verb Agreement questions** address whether there is a match between single and plural subjects and verbs.

Consider the following examples

Another example: **Why doesn't your grandfather like to fish?**
Correct.

The subject here, *grandfather*, is singular. The verb *doesn't like*, is also singular. This sentence has subject-verb agreement.

Why doesn't your grandfather and grandmother like to fish? Incorrect.

Whenever a subject contains two nouns joined by the word *and*, this makes the subject plural. Since the subject of the sentence is now plural, the sentence needs a plural verb:

Why don't your grandfather and grandmother like to fish? Correct.

The singular verb *doesn't like* from the sentence above has been replaced with the plural verb *don't like*. The subject and the verb are both in plural form, so they now agree.

ALL TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE VERB TENSES



Verb tenses are used to show when the action is taking place in the sentence.

UNDERSTANDING SIMPLE TENSES

The most common verb tenses are past, present, and future. If the action of the sentence is taking place in the past, the verbs showing that action should be in the past tense. If the action of the sentence is taking place in the present, the verbs showing that action should be in the present tense, and so on.

Verb Tenses questions address the correct use of verb tenses and whether a verb phrase matches the tense used in the rest of the sentence.

The following example is written in the past tense. It contains the past tense phrase *yesterday*: **Andrew received his class award yesterday. Correct.**

The verb *received* correctly indicates that the action of the sentence took place in the past.

Another example: **Andrew received his class award tomorrow. Incorrect.**

This sentence is incorrect because the past tense verb *received* does not make sense in the context of the sentence. Here we have a future tense phrase, *tomorrow*. The correct verb for this sentence is *will receive*, to place this sentence in the future tense: **Andrew will receive his class award tomorrow. Correct.**

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Verb tenses are used to show when the action is taking place in the sentence.

UNDERSTANDING SIMPLE TENSES

Another example: **She is choosing between her top two colleges today. Correct.**

This sentence correctly shows its action taking place in the present. It contains the present tense phrase *today*, and it uses the present tense verb *is choosing*.

Another example: **She is choosing between her top two colleges last week. Incorrect.**

This sentence also contains the present tense verb phrase *is choosing*. However, the phrase *last week* indicates that the action of the sentence took place in the past. This sentence, as written is incorrect.

Last example: **She chose between her top two colleges last week. Correct.**

This sentence reads that she *chose* between her top two college last week to show clearly that the action took place in the past.

ALL TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE VERB TENSES

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UNDERSTANDING PROGRESSIVE TENSES

Progressive tenses are the present progressive, past progressive, and future progressive. They show that an action is in progress. These tenses are also sometimes called **continuous** tenses.

Present progressive is formed: Subject + *am / is / are* + -ing verb + object. *My teacher is assigning us a mountain of homework.*

Past progressive is formed: Subject + *was / were* + -ing verb + object. *The rabbit was running for hours.*

Future progressive is formed: Subject + *will be* + -ing verb + object. *I will be sleeping when you get back.*

ALL TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE VERB TENSES

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UNDERSTANDING PERFECT TENSES

Perfect tenses are the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.

Present perfect tense shows action that was recently completed or was completed at an indefinite time in the past.

The tense is formed: Subject + *has / have* + past participle verb + object. *My teacher has assigned a mountain of homework.*

Past perfect tense shows an action that was completed directly before another action was completed.

The tense is formed: Subject + *had* + past participle verb + object. *The rabbit had run for hours until it found shelter.*

Future perfect tense shows an action that will happen before another action happens.

The tense is formed: Subject + *will have* + past participle verb + object. *I will have fallen asleep by the time you get back.*

ALL TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE VERB TENSES

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UNDERSTANDING PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES

Perfect progressive tenses are the present perfect progressive, past perfect progressive, and future perfect progressive. They show that an action in the perfect tense is in progress. These tenses are also sometimes called **perfect continuous** tenses.

Present perfect progressive is formed: Subject + *has / had been* + -ing verb + object. *My teacher has been assigning us a mountain of homework all year.*

Past perfect progressive is formed: Subject + *had been* + -ing verb + object. *The rabbit had been running for hours.*

Future perfect progressive is formed: Subject + *will have been* + -ing verb + object. *I will have been sleeping for hours by the time you get home.*