

English Grammar: Agreement Study Guide

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English Grammar: Agreement

1 DVD · 1 hr. 21 mins.

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English Grammar: Agreement Study Guide

Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's English Grammar Series makes the tricky rules of English grammar easier to learn than ever before – whether you're new to English or you've been speaking it for years!

If your nouns, verbs, and pronouns don't agree, your reader will probably find your sentences hard to understand. That's because these parts of speech can all be affected by number (singular or plural) and gender (male or female). This unique program will help you master the "art of agreement" so your sentences will be error-free and easy to follow!

Before you begin studying, let us make a few recommendations. First, have a notebook and pen ready so you're prepared to take notes. You'll probably want to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself – when you're done, you'll have a notebook on English grammar that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

Now you can eliminate embarrassing mistakes from your speaking and writing forever. Let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Karl Weber, M.A., is a professional writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of two popular series of test prep guidebooks, and has worked on books with such noted personalities as former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Richard Butler, and U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt.

Lesson 1 – Singular and Plural

Exercise 1

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a verb is needed. Using clues from the sentence, decide whether the verb should be singular or plural. Then select the correct verb from the choices given.

1. Four hundred pages (*seems, seem*) like an awfully long reading assignment for the holiday weekend.
2. Neither of the injured dancers (*is, are*) feeling well enough to perform this evening.
3. The orchestra (*has, have*) recently completed a successful tour of several Asian countries.
4. All of the stone masons working on the cathedral (*is, are*) residents of Harlem.
5. Everyone in the class (*was, were*) surprised at how easy the final exam was.

Lesson 2 – Fine Points of Subject-Verb Agreement

Exercise 2

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a verb is needed. Using clues from the sentence, decide whether the verb should be singular or plural. Then select the correct verb from the choices given.

1. The governor, having met with her advisors and developed a negotiating strategy for dealing with the angry workers, (*was, were*) finally ready to join the bargaining session.
2. Here in the deepest recesses of the ocean (*is, are*) some of the most mysterious creatures on Earth.
3. Either the members of the defensive squad or Coach Mayo himself (*is, are*) sure to have some explanation for the way the game ended.
4. The story of the four hundred members of the 29th Cavalry and their heroic exploits on several battlefields (*is, are*) truly remarkable.
5. The elementary school cafeteria offers twelve kinds of sandwiches, yet peanut butter and jelly (*remains, remain*) the most popular of all.

Lesson 3 – Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

• ERRATUM NOTICE •

In early releases of this product, the instructor misspeaks when he gives the example “**Many of the women were waiting for their husbands.**” This example should have read: “**Most of the women were waiting for their husbands.**” “Most” is a plural pronoun here because “women” is plural, and thus the sentence requires the plural verb “were” and the plural possessive pronoun “their.” “Most” is one of the indefinite “SANAM” pronouns; “many” is not. The graphic that accompanies this example also includes the mistake, which was due to a typographical error in the script. We sincerely apologize for any confusion this error may cause.

Exercise 3

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a pronoun is required. Select the correct pronoun, based upon clues from the sentence.

1. According to the police officer's testimony, someone was seen entering the bank just before the robbery carrying a red pocketbook under (*her, their*) arm.
2. Both of the skydivers had brought (*his, their*) own parachutes and safety gear in preparation for tomorrow's jump.
3. Anyone who wants to attend next Saturday's dance at the Rotary Club can pick up (*his or her, their*) ticket at the information booth on Vincy Street.
4. No one knows whether any of the churches or synagogues in town will provide space in (*its, their*) buildings for a homeless shelter.
5. Either Nadia or her sister didn't finish (*her, their*) dinner.

• ERRATUM NOTICE •

In early releases of this product, the instructor misspeaks when explaining the answer to #5 in this exercise (the graphic that accompanies this item also includes the mistake). We sincerely apologize for any confusion this error may cause.

Please disregard the erroneous explanation found within the program, substituting the following:

When the antecedent of a possessive pronoun is a compound subject joined by the conjunction "or," the pronoun must agree with the term that is closest to the verb: the antecedent is considered singular when the term closest to the verb is singular and plural when the term closest to the verb is plural. Therefore, since "her sister" (the term closest to the verb) is singular, we must use the singular possessive pronoun "her." (Had the sentence begun "Either Nadia or her sisters didn't finish," we would have used the plural possessive pronoun "their" instead to agree with "her sisters.")