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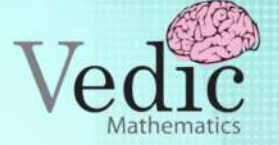
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Rule (1) : If the two subjects are joined by "and" the verb will be plural.

Examples:

- (a) He and she were present in the function.
- (b) Ram and Rahim are friends.

Rule (2) : When two nouns refer to the same person or thing. take singular verb.

Example:

The poet and painter has died.

Please note in such case, article is used with the first noun only.

Rule (3) : When two nouns almost identical in meaning used in a sentence, just for the sake of emphasis, we use singular verb.

Example:

The scheme and plan of my life differs from that of yours.

Rule (4) : When two nouns are not identical in meaning but part of the same idea and used as a phrase, the verb used is singular.

Examples:

- (a) Bread and butter is a good breakfast.
- (b) Slow and steady wins the race.

Rule (5) : When two subjects are connected by; or, either...or. neither...nor, and not only...but also, the subject which is closest to the verb determines whether the verb is singular or plural. Usually the plural subject is placed near the verb (it means if one subject is singular and the other is plural, the plural subject will be placed near the verb and the verb will be plural).

Examples:

- (a) Neither the Principal nor the teachers were present in the function.
- (b) Either Ramesh or his friends have stolen the watch.

Rule (6) : With collective nouns like; team, family, jury, crowd, class, committee, army, assembly, fleet,

majority, mob, government, parliament council, staff, etc., the verb used can be singular or plural. If the collective noun functions as a unit the verb will be singular, but if the collective noun functions dividedly or not in unison, the verb used will be plural.

Examples:

- (a) The Parliament has passed the bill.
- (b) Army was deployed at the border.

Rule (7) : Some nouns ends in 's', look like plurals, but actually singular in meaning take singular verbs. Such commonly used nouns are;

physics, mathematics, economics, news, gallows, billiards, innings, wages, alms, politics, measles, mumps etc.

Examples:

- (a) No news is good news.
- (b) Physics / Economics / Maths is a good subject.

Rule (8) : A Plural noun denoting quantity or measurements of time, money, distance weight as a unit takes singular verb.

Example: Five Kilograms is not a heavy weight.

Rule (9) : Some nouns appear, singular but are plural in meaning take plural verbs. Such commonly used nouns are; dozen, hundred, million, cattle, people, score, thousand, gentry, police, peasantry, company, alphabet, progeny, offspring, clergy, infantry etc.

Examples:

- (a) The cattle are grazing in the field.
- (b) A score were saved by him.

Rule (10) : Sometimes a word that is actually an adjective is used as a noun. It is preceded by the and means "people". the poor = people who are poor, the old = people who are old, the young people who are young.

Examples:

- (a) The poor are trustworthy.
- (b) The rich are generally unkind to the poor.





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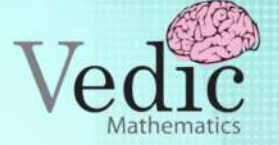
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Rule (11) : Each and every take singular noun and singular verb.

Examples:

- (a) Each boy and girl has to attend the function.
- (b) Every man, woman and child was happy to meet with the president.

Rule (12) : Usually singular verb is used in sentences showing arithmetical calculation. Also note the following views of Norman Lewis.

Examples:

- (a) Four and four is eight.
- (b) Four and four are eight.

***Five and Five is ten :** Right But – don't jump to the conclusion that 'five and five are ten' is wrong both verbs are equally acceptance. (Norman Lewis)

Examples:

- (a) Three plus three equals six.
- (b) Three plus three equal six.

Rule (13) : One of, Either of, Neither of, None of, always take plural noun and singular verb. Note the construction: One of/None of/Either of/Neither of/None of + plural noun + singular verb.

Examples:

- (a) One of my friends needs some help.
- (b) None of those reasons is valid.

Rule (14) : Some nouns uncountable in nature like; furniture, luggage, information, advice, work, knowledge, equipment, behaviour, scenery, traffic, fruit, electricity, music, progress, weather, nonsense, sense, etc. can't be pluralised by adding 's'. Uncountable noun, take singular verbs.

Examples:

- (a) Work is worship.
- (b) Knowledge is power.

Rule (15) : When two nouns joined together by; besides, as well as, and not, in addition to, like, with,

together with, including, accompanied by, the verb is governed by the former noun.

Examples:

- (a) Ram and not his friends was present there
- (b) The house with all its belongings was sold.

Rule (16) : Hair is used in singular and usually takes singular verb. But if hair is used as countable, use plural verb as following.

Examples:

- (a) His hair is black.
- (b) Five hairs of the horse are needed by him.

Rule (17) : If a countable noun follows 'all' or 'some' in a sentence the noun as well as the verb used will be plural. But if the noun following is uncountable, the verb used will be singular.

Examples:

- (a) All the tigers are wild animals.
- (b) Some milk is needed.

If the use of all denotes a unit the verb used will be singular.

Examples:

- (a) He informed the police all that happened last night.
- (b) I would inform you all that was discussed in the meeting.

Rule (18) : When used in sentences, the titles of books, plays, poems, movies, and so on are singular and so take singular verb.

Example: Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children is my favourite novel.

Rule (19) : The verb used after 'there' will be singular or plural depends upon the subject follows. If it is singular, use singular verb, if plural use plural verb.





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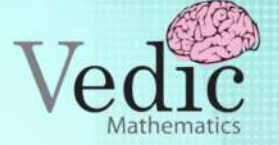
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Examples:

- (a) There is a girl in the room.
- (b) There are ten students in the class.

Rule (20) : Some nouns consist of two parts, take plural verbs. Such commonly used nouns are; scissors, paints, trousers, binoculars, tongs, spectacles, shorts, breeches, shoes, scales, glasses, goggles etc.

Examples:

- (a) My shoes are new.
- (b) The scissors are blunt.

If a pair is used with such nouns, the verb used is singular.

Examples:

- (a) Only a pair of shoes is required.
- (b) A pair of scissors was purchased by me.

Rule (21) : Some sentences have following constructions Singular noun + Preposition + Singular noun..... Singular verb.

Use singular verb in such constructions. It is important.

Examples:

- (a) Man after man was coming there.
- (b) One month after another has passed.

Rule (22) : Some nouns have the same form in singular as well as in plural. The verb is used according to what we mean to refer. Such nouns are; Sheep, fish, deer, pice etc.

Examples:

- (a) A sheep is a beautiful animal.
- (b) Many sheep are grazing there.
- (c) I found a pice.
- (d) I found five pice.

Rule (23) : If in a sentence; infinitive, gerund, phrase, or a clause, functions as subject Use singular verb.

Examples:

- (a) Swimming is a good exercise. **(Gerund)**
- (b) To swim is good for you. **(infinitive)**

Rule (24) : If phrase: *a number of, lots of, a lot of, plenty of, a quarter of, part of, percent of, proportion of, none of, remainder of, two third of, most of, some of, majority of, much of, many of, a good deal of, a great deal of, heaps of, etc.* is followed by a countable noun, it will be plural and the verb used will also be plural. If the noun followed is uncountable the verb used will be singular.

Examples:

- (a) Most of the persons are dishonest.
- (b) About half of the students were present there.
- (c) Most of the milk was impure.
- (d) Most of the sugar was wet with water.

Rule (25) : A number/The number

A number means many, always takes plural verb. The number means a definite number, acts as collective noun, takes singular verb.

Examples :

- (a) The number of candidates appeared in SSC this year was very large.
- (b) A number of English books are available in library.

Rule (26) : 'None' usually takes singular verb, but some renowned grammarians also use plural verbs with none.

Examples:

- (a) It is mistake to suppose that the pronoun 'noun' is singular only and must at all costs be followed by singular verb. **(Fowler)**
 - (b) None was originally used only as singular but it has also acquired a plural meaning. **(Nesfield)**
 - (c) None is an abbreviated form of not one or no one and would therefore seem to be singular, but in its context it usually has a plural sense. **(Vallins)**
- As such none can be used in singular as well as in plural.





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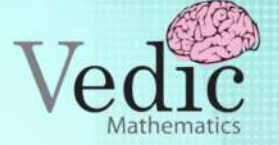
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Rule (27) : The phrase 'Nothing but' is treated as singular, so it takes singular verb, irrespective of the noun following

it, is singular or plural.

Examples:

- (a) Nothing but hill is seen.
- (b) Nothing but birds is seen.

Rule (28) : If 'no' precedes each of the two singular nouns in a sentence as following, singular verb is used.

Examples:

- (a) No boy and no girl was present in the party.
- (b) No man and no woman was swimming at that time.

Rule (29) : Following indefinite words require singular verbs:

anybody, anyone, each, every, everyone, everybody, much, no one, one, other, someone, something, somebody.

Examples:

- (a) Has **anybody** seen my purse?
- (b) **Anyone** is welcome.
- (c) **Each** child gets a prize.
- (d) **Every** dog has its day.
- (e) **Everyone** is welcome.
- (f) **Everybody** is welcome.
- (g) **Much** has been made of his new book.
- (h) **No – one** was willing to try.

Rule (30) : Following indefinite words can have singular or plural verb. If the subject is singular verb will also be singular, if the subject is plural verb will be plural. Such commonly used words are All, any, enough, most, some.

Examples:

- (a) All she wants is to be happy.
- (b) All her dreams have come true.
- (c) Enough has been said about that already.
- (d) Enough people have been hurt already..

Rule (31) : When the subject and verb are separated, find the subject and verb and make sure they agree.

Ignore the words in-between because they do not affect agreement.

Examples:

- (a) The quality of these goods is well known.
- (b) Financial help from all the countries was received.

Rule (32) : In some sentences some words or phrases in apposition are placed between subject and predicate, the verb will be governed in number and person by the subject's number and person.

Examples:

- (a) You, my friend, are not guilty of misconduct.
- (b) I, manager of this company, am responsible for the loss.

Rule (33) : The relative pronouns (who, whom, which, and that) are either singular or plural, depending on the words they refer to. If the word referred is singular, verb will also be singular, otherwise plural.

Examples:

- (a) It is 1 who am responsible for the loss.
 - (b) It is he who is responsible for this loss.
 - (c) The woman who is in black saree is my wife.
 - (d) The women who are standing there are my sisters.
- In above sentences the verb is governed by the antecedent (that comes before the relative pronoun).

Rule (34) : If a sentence compounds a positive and a negative subject and one is plural, the other singular, the verb should agree with the positive subject.

Examples:

- (a) The staff members but not the principal **have decided** not to teach on Independence Day.
- (b) It is not the teachers but the principal who **decides** this issue.

Rule (35) : 'Many a' is distributive in nature and effect, so requires a singular verb.

Examples:

- (a) Many a man has failed to do his duty.
- (b) Many a girl has come to visit the temple today.





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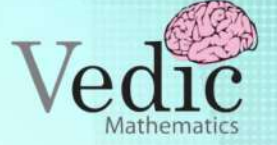
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Rule (36) : Some verbs are followed by 'as'. These are; regard, describe, represent, portray, depict, mention, define, treat.

Examples:

- (a) You ought to have regarded him as your brother.
- (b) He was described by his wife as the most harmless man.

Rule (37) : Verbs such as; name, call, term, think, consider, nominate, appoint, are not followed by 'as'.

Examples:

- (a) The Chairman nominated Hari secretary of the society.
- (b) Ram called him a fool, a rogue and a crook.

Verb act and pass' are followed by 'as' in following constructions.

Examples:

- (a) He acted as principal.
- (b) He passed as a gentleman.

Rule (38) : More than one, though its sense is necessarily plural, is treated as a sort of compound of 'one', following its construction, and agrees with a singular noun and takes a singular verb- Fowler.

Examples:

- (a) More than one worker was absent.
- (b) More than one student was killed

The construction "more + noun + than one +"

Plural verb is used in following constructions.

Examples:

- (a) More books than one have been purchased by her.
- (b) More girls than one were present in the party.

Rule (39) : The following 'and' 'the undersigned' if used for singular subject noun the verb will be singular otherwise plural.

Examples:

- (a) The following are the new prices of the items.
- (b) Undersigned has taken a decision S.K. Jain.
- (c) We, the undersigned request the pleasure of your

company. S.K. Jain/P.K. Jain.

Rule (40) : Inversion is used in following situations:

(i) When a sentence begins with; hardly, rarely, scarcely, seldom, never, little. Inversion is used.

Examples:

- (a) Hardly does she go to church.
- (b) Seldom had I seen such a healthy baby.

(ii) Use of conjunction 'Not only but also'.

Examples:

- (a) Not only did she watch TV but she also cooked meal.
- (b) Not only does he rob her but he also smashes everything.

(iii) With 'No sooner'.

- (a) No sooner had she seen her husband than she hugged him

Examples:

- (b) No sooner did he see the dead body of his wife than he burst into tears.

(iv) In sentences beginning with following phrases.

Under no circumstances, In no way, On no account, On no condition, At no time.

Examples:

- (a) Under no circumstances shall I accept this proposal.
- (b) On no condition will she sell the house.

(v) With adverbial expressions with 'only'; only yesterday, only the day before yesterday, only last month, only last fortnight, only after a month/ year, only then, only in this way, only when, only by doing this thing, only in a few schools/colleges/countries/continents etc.

Examples:

- (a) Only yesterday did he buy that car.
- (b) Only by taking risk did he save the life of the minister.





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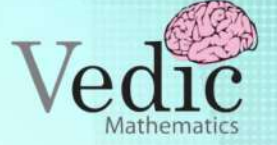
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Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 40) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the name of the part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

1. All his money (1)/ is spent (2)/ and all his (3)/ hopes ruined. (4)/ No error (5)
2. This rule may (1)/ and ought to be (2)/disregarded for (3)/ the time being. (4)/ No error (5)
3. He is one of the (1)/ richest men (2)/ if not the richest man (3)/ in the world. (4)/ No error (5)
4. We can almost get (1)/ everything in (2)/ this market (3)/ at reasonable price. (4)/ No error (5)
5. Every (1)/ Tom, Dick and Harry (2)/ drink (3)/ wine these days. (4)/ No error (5)
6. He and I (1)/ is partners in (2)/ the firm (3) named "Unique builders". (4) No error (5)
7. He is one of the (1)/ great men (2)/ that has (3)/ ever lived. (4)/ No error (5)
8. The magistrate and collector (1)/ were (2)/ present there (3)/ on the spot. (4)/ No error (5)
9. Horse and Carriage (1)/are (2)/waiting there (3)/for the couple. (4)/ No error (5)
10. Rice and fish (1)/ are (2)/ my (3)/ favourite dish. (4)/ No error (5)
11. He ordered (1)/ as if he (2)/ was (3)/ my master. (4)/ No error (5)

12. Not only she watched (1)/the news (2)/ but she also (3)/cooked food. (4)/ No error (5)
13. No sooner the plane landed at the (1)/airport than (2)/ a group of armed (3)/commandos surrounded it. (4)/ No error (5)
14. The merit (1)/ of these books (2)/ are (3) /known to everyone. (4)/ No error (5)
15. The condition of (1)/ people living in (2)/ rural area (3)/are very bad. (4)/ No error (5)
16. The smell (1)/ of these rose (2)/ flowers are (3)/ very sweet. (4)/ No error (5)
17. The condolence messages (1)/ received on the (2)/ death of Mrs. Gandhi (3)/ speaks highly of her greatness. (4)/ No error (5)
18. Economic cooperation (1)/between the two countries (2)/have (3)/ increased substantially. (4)/ No error (5)
19. A band of musicians (1)/ have been engaged (2)/ for the (3)/ inauguration function. (4)/ No error (5)
20. The number (1)/ of persons interested (2)/in psychology are (3)/ generally small. (4)/ No error (5)
21. "Under no circumstances (1)/I can help you in (2)/ this venture". (3)/ said Sita. (4)/ No error (5)
22. "I don't like (1)/ such a bright colour (2)/nor she does". (3)/ he said to Ram. (4)/ No error (5)
23. Every member of (1)/his family is (2)/addicted to gambling (3)/ Vand so John is. (4)/ No error (5)
24. Never before (1)/ I had been asked (2)/ to go there (3)/by bus. (4)/ No error (5)





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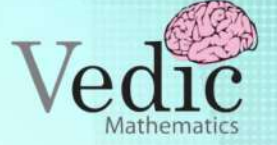
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25. On no account (1)/ this switch must (2)/ be touched (3)/ by you. (4)/ No error (5)

26. "Seldom I had seen (1)/ such a (2)/ beautiful girl", (3)/said Mohanti. (4)/ No error (5)

27. Under a tree (1)/was sleeping an (2)/ old lady (3)/with her young child. (4)/ No error (5)

28. To such a degree (1)/ he created (2)/ the problems that (3)/people thrashed him. (4)/ No error (5)

29. According to newspaper reports (1)/ there is more internet users (2)/ in small towns (3)/ than in metros. (4)/ No error (5)

30. The foremost criterion of selection we adopted (1)/ were the number of years of training (2)/ a singer had received (3)/ under a particular guru. (4)/No error (5)

31. The manager's comments (1)/on the preparation of the test matches (2) for this tour (3)/ has been generally praised. (4)/ No error (5)

32. The details (1)/ of the incident (2)/was not known (3)/to me. (4)/ No error (5)

33. The majority of (1)/ writers never (2)/ passes (3)/ this stage. (4)/ No error (5)

34. A large part of (1)/ the distinctive features (2)/ of the mind is due to its being (3)/ an instrument of communication. (4)/ No error (5)

35. A part of (1)/ the mango (2)/ are (3)/ rotten. (4)/ No error (5)

36. A part of (1)/ the books (2)/ are (3)/ missing. (4)/ No error (5)

37. The governing body at (1)/ its first meeting (2)/ have decided (3)/ to conduct the test again. (4)/ No error (5)

38. The bankers association (1)/ has submitted a memorandum (2)/ for the fulfilment of (3)/ the demands. (4)/ No error (5)

39. Five quintals of wooden coal (1)/ are (2)/ his annual requirement (3)/ for the unit. (4)/ No error (5)

40. Dickens have (1)/ vehemently criticized (2)/ the philosophy (3)/ in 'Hard Times'. (4)/ No error (5)

