Complete Sentences

- In every complete sentence there are two components.

**The subject**
- A word or phrase in a sentence indicating who or what is performing/receiving the action of the verb

**The verb**
- The word or group of words used to indicate the action or state.
Relationship between Subject and Verb

• The form of the verb indicates the action or state of the subject; therefore, the subject and verb have an important relationship.

• They must always agree in **number** (singular or plural).

• They must always agree in **person** (1st, 2nd, or 3rd).
Basic Rules of Agreement

Present Tense

• When the subject is singular, one -s or -es is added to the verb.

• When the subject is plural (more than one), nothing is added to the verb.

• Note: Although the addition of -s or -es to nouns indicates the plural form, adding them to verbs indicates a third person singular verb.

General Rule

Singular Subjects = add -s
Plural Subjects = no ending
Basic Rules of Agreement: Ex. 1

General Rule
Singular Subjects = add -s
Plural Subjects = no ending

Read this example:
The adventurous girl hikes to the top of Mount Everest.

• In this sentence, the subject, girl, is singular in number.
• Only one girl is hiking.
• In order for the subject and verb to agree, the verb, hikes, has an -s ending to make it third person singular.
**Basic Rules of Agreement: Ex. 2**

**General Rule**
- Singular Subjects = add -s
- Plural Subjects = no ending

Read this example:

*The adventurous girls hike to the top of Mount Everest.*

- In this sentence, the subject, *girls*, is plural in number.
- There is more than one girl hiking.
- Since the subject is plural, the verb *hike* has no ending.
The adventurous girl hikes to the top of Mount Everest.

Subject = singular
Add -s to verb

The adventurous girls hike to the top of Mount Everest.

Subject = plural
Add nothing
Pronoun Agreement

• When a **pronoun** is the subject of a **sentence**, the **verb** must also agree with the **pronoun**.

• A way to check if they agree in number is to substitute an equivalent **subject pronoun** for the original subject of the sentence.

• First determine whether the subject is singular or plural.

• Then use the chart below to choose the corresponding **subject pronoun**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>We</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He, She, It</td>
<td>They</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Irregular Plural Nouns

• One exception to the general rule of subject-verb agreement (SVA) is when the subject is an **irregular noun**.

• In the case of an irregular plural noun we do not need to add an -s on the verb, since it is still plural even though it doesn’t have an -s ending on the noun.

• Some examples include *men, children, and mice*.

• Each of these nouns is pluralized by changing the root of the word.
Some Irregular Plural Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Subjects</th>
<th>Plural Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse</td>
<td>Mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooth</td>
<td>Teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half</td>
<td>Halves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>Lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis</td>
<td>Crises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Irregular Verbs

• The irregular verb be (am, is, are, was, were) and helping verbs (be, have, do) are made to agree with subjects as well.