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In grammar, agreement is the correspondence of a verb with its subject in person and number, and of a pronoun with its antecedent in person, number, and gender. Another term for grammatical agreement is concord. "In English, agreement is relatively limited. It occurs between the subject of a clause and a present tense verb, so that, for instance, with a third-person singular subject (e.g. John), the verb must have the -s suffix ending. That is, the verb agrees with its subject by having the appropriate ending. Thus, John drinks a lot is grammatical, but John drinks a lot is grammatical as a sentence on its own, because the verb doesn't agree." "Agreement also occurs in English between demonstratives and nouns. A demonstrative has to agree in number with its noun. So with a plural noun such as books, you use a singular this or that, giving this book or those books or those books or those books or those books or those books. With a singular noun, such as book, you use a singular this or that, giving these books or those books or those books or those books. With a singular noun, such as book, you use a singular this or that, giving this book or those books or those books. the demonstrative doesn't agree with the noun."-James R. Hurford, Grammar: A Student's Guide. Cambridge University Press, 1994 "Agreement is an important process in many languages, but in modern English it is superfluous, a remnant of a richer system that flourished in Old English. If it were to disappear entirely, we would not miss it, any more than we miss the similar -est suffix in Thou sayest. But psychologically speaking, this frill does not come cheap. Any speaker committed to using it has to keep track of four details in every sentence uttered: whether the subject is in the third person or not: He walks versus I walk, whether the subject is singular or plural: He walks versus They walk. whether the action is present tense or not: He walks versus He walks to school versus He is walking to school. And all this work is needed just to use the suffix once one has learned it."-Steven Pinker, The Language Instinct. William Morrow, 1994 "Some nouns are commonly used with singular verbs although plural in form: Some nouns are commonly plural in usage, even though naming something singular." news, politics, economics, athletics, molasses nouns that state a given time, weight, or amount of energytitles of books, newspapers, television shows, even of plural form His trousers were old and torn. The suds are almost down the drain. Scissors are a great invention. The contents were ruined. -Patricia Osborn, How Grammar Works: A Self-Teaching Guide. John Wiley, 1989 Many dogs are made anxious by loud noises. An anxious dog is not able to focus and maintain attention. Dogs and cats are the most common pets. A dog and a cat are in our house. Usually, either the dog or the cat is in my room. Abandoning a dog or a cat is grossly irresponsible. Bill Bryson "The manager was one of those people who are so permanently and comprehensively stressed that even their hair and clothes appear to be at their wit's end. "-The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid. Broadway Books, 2006 James Van Fleet "I have read statistics that show only five out of every 100 people become financially successful. By the retirement age of 65, only one of these people is truly wealthy."—Hidden Power. Prentice-Hall, 1987 Maxine Hong Kingston "She brought back another woman, who wore a similar uniform except that it was pink trimmed in white. This woman's hair was gathered up into a bunch of curls at the back of her head; some of the curls were fake."-The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts. Alfred A. Knopf, 1976 Bell Hooks "Feminist activists must emphasize the forms of power these women exercise and show ways they can be used for their benefit."-Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center, 2nd ed. Pluto Press, 2000 Why is grammar important? As Jasper Fforde put it, "Ill-fitting shoes. You can get used to it for a bit, but then one day your toes fall off and you can't walk to the bathroom." Scroll down to continue Share Pin it Tweet Share Email I try, I really do, but even though I write every day I'm not exactly fluent when it comes to grammar and punctuation. Not many people are and it's nice the readers here help me out every now and then! Dumb Little Man recently found the great Online Writing Lab at Purdue University and has kindly categorized the tips they keep there. Run through this list covering verbs, commas, structure and more and become a better writer. 40+ Tips to Improve your Grammar and Punctuation - [DumbLittleMan] The OWL At Purdue - [PurdueUniversity] Share Pin it Tweet Share Email In English grammar, the subject is the part of a sentence or clause that commonly indicates (a) what it is about, or (b) who or what performs the action (that is, the agent). The subject is typically a noun ("The dog . . ."), a noun phrase ("My sister's Yorkshire terrier . . ."), or a pronoun ("It . . ."). The subject usually appears before the verb ("The dog barks"). In an interrogative sentence, the subject usually follows the first part of a verb ("Does the dog ever bark?"). In an imperative sentence, the subject is commonly said to be "you understood" ("Bark!"). Its etymology is from the Latin, "to throw". "The clearest way of spotting the subject of a sentence is to turn the sentence into a yes-no question (by this we mean a question which can be answered with either 'yes' or 'no'). In English, questions are formed by reversing the order between the subject and the first verb which follows it. Look at the following example: He can keep a Tamagotchi alive for more than a week? Here 'he' and 'can' have changed places and that means that 'he' must be the subject in the first sentence. . . . "If there is no suitable verb in the original sentence, then use dummy do, and the subject is the constituent which occurs between do and the original verb." (Kersti Börjars and Kate Burridge, "Introducing English Grammar", 2010) "The Grinch hated Christmas."(Dr. Seuss, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" 1957)"We should take Bikini Bottom and push it somewhere else!"(Patrick in "Squid on Strike." "SpongeBob SquarePants", 2001)"Momma was preparing our evening meal, and Uncle Willie leaned on the door sill."(Maya Angelou, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings". 1969)"My master made me this collar. He is a good and smart master, and he made me this collar so that I may speak."(Dug in "Up", 2009)"The saber-toothed tiger was prowling around the bottom of the tree, growling, as it looked for an easier way up. Then something caught its attention."(Damian Harvey, "The Mudcrusts: Saber-Toothed Terrors". 2010)"Sophie was especially excited because she and her friends were performing the opening dance at the Misty Wood fair."(Lily Small, "Sophie the Squirrel". 2017)"Fettucini alfredo is macaroni and cheese for adults."(Mitch Hedberg)"You can't try to do things; you simply must do them."(Ray Bradbury) "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."(Albert Einstein)"Look at the circles under my eyes. I haven't slept in weeks!"(The Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz", 1939)"The orderly came back in a few minutes with a rifle and five cartridges, and meanwhile some Burmans had arrived and told us that the elephant was in the paddy fields below, only a few hundred yards away." (George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant." "New Writing", 1936)" Up to the farmhouse to dinner through the teeming, dusty field, the road under our sneakers was only a two-track road." (E.B. White, "Once More to the Lake." Harper's, 1941)" To do the thing properly, with any hope of ending up with a genuine duplicate of a single person, you really have no choice. You must clone them all."(Lewis Thomas, "The Tucson Zoo")"Every sentence has a truth waiting at the end of it, and the writer learns how to know it when he finally gets there."(Don DeLillo, "Mao II". 1991) Challenging Traditional Definitions of a Subject The traditional definition of subject as referring to the 'doer of an action' (or agent), though it is adequate for central or typical cases, will not work for all cases. For example, in passive sentences, such as John was attacked, the subject is John, but John is certainly not the 'doer' of the attacking. Again, not all sentences, even those with transitive verbs, express any action. Examples are This book cost fifty francs and I loather relativism. But such sentences have always traditionally been held to have subjects (in these cases, this book and I)."(James R. Hurford, "Grammar: A Student's Guide". 1994) Subjects and Predicates in Poetry"[Robert] Frost's 'Dust of Snow' justifies its form by devoting one stanza to the grammatical subject and the other to the predicate: The way a crowShook down on meThe dust of snowFrom a hemlock treeHas given my heartA change of moodAnd saved some partOf a day I had rued." (Paul Fussell, "Poetic Meter and Poetic Form", 1979)

