



## 3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE

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### LESSON NOTES

School: Ba Sangam College

Year/Level: 9

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: English

Week 11

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Strand	Writing and Shaping
Sub Strand	Language features and rules
Content Learning Outcome	Use correctly the conventions of written English including grammar, usage, spelling and punctuations to communicate ideas logically.

### Subject-verb agreement

#### Basic Rule

A singular subject takes a singular verb. e.g. Peter is going to town

A plural subject takes a plural verb. e.g. The boys are going to town

#### Rules:

1. or, either/or, or neither/nor

Two singular subjects connected by the above require a singular verb.

The verb in or, either /or, or neither/nor sentence agrees with the noun or pronoun closest to it.

#### Examples:

- My sister or my brother is arriving by plane today.
- Neither Timothy nor Pravesh is available.
- Either Tina or Lesy is helping today with birthday decorations.
- Neither the boys nor the girl agrees to the decision made by the school.
- Neither the girl nor the boys agree to the decision made by the school.

2. A plural verb is used with two or more subjects when they are connected by and.

Eg A car and a bike are my means of transportation.

3. Some subjects always take a singular verb even though the meaning may seem plural. These subjects always take singular verbs: each, someone, either, anyone, neither, nobody, one, somebody, no one, anybody, everyone, everybody

Eg. Someone in the game was hurt. Neither of the men is working.

4. Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by such words, together with, as along with, as well as, besides, not, etc. These words and phrases are not part of the subject and the subject is not affected by these phrases.

Eg> The teacher, along with the Manager, is expected shortly. ♣ The teachers, together with the Manager, are expected shortly.

5. Use a singular verb with distances, periods of time, sums of money, etc., when considered as a unit.

Eg. Ten kilometers is too far to walk. Five years is the maximum sentence for that offence. Twenty dollars is a high price to pay.

6. With words that indicate portions—e.g. a lot, a majority, some, all. If the noun after of is singular, use a singular verb. If it is plural, use a plural verb

Eg. A lot of the cake has disappeared. A lot of the cakes have disappeared. All of the cake is gone. All of the cakes are gone.

7. With collective nouns such as, group, jury, family, audience, population, the verb might be singular or plural, depending on the writer's intent.

Eg. All of my family has arrived OR have arrived. ♣ Most of the jury is here OR are here.

8. If one of the words each, every, or no comes before the subject, the verb is singular.

Eg. No smoking or drinking alcohol is allowed. ♣ Every man and woman is required to sign in the attendance.

### Activity Questions

(10 marks)

Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject

1. One of my friends (has / have) gone to France.
2. Each of the boys (was / were) given a present.
3. Neither of the contestants (was / were) able to win a decisive victory.
4. Oil and water (does / do) not mix.
5. He and I (was / were) at Oxford together.
6. Slow and steady (win / wins) the race.
7. Neither Peter nor James (has / have) any right to the property.
8. No prize or medal (was / were) given to the boy, though he came first in the examination.
9. Either Mary or Alice (is / are) responsible for this.
10. Neither the Minister nor his colleagues (has / have) given any explanation for this.