

Lesson Plan: Subject-verb agreement (advanced)

Level: Advanced (C1/C2)

Time: 90 minutes

Objective:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Identify and apply advanced subject-verb agreement rules.
- Recognize and correct errors in complex sentences.
- Understand the impact of stylistic and contextual choices on verb agreement.

Materials:

- Whiteboard/Smartboard
- Handouts with exercises and explanations
- Online quiz or interactive grammar tool (optional)
- Example excerpts from formal and informal texts

Warm-Up (10 minutes)

Activity: "Odd One Out"

- Write 4 sentences on the board; 3 are correct, 1 has a subject-verb agreement error.
- Students work in pairs to identify the incorrect sentence and explain why.

Example:

1. The team *is* winning the match.

2. Neither the players nor the coach *are* available.
3. Each of the students *has* a locker.
4. Statistics *is* a complex subject.

Presentation: Key Rules Review (20 minutes)

Advanced Rules to Cover:

1. **Indefinite pronouns:** everyone, someone, each = singular
2. **Subjects joined by 'and':** usually plural, but compound subjects treated as a unit can be singular
 - *Peanut butter and jelly is my favorite sandwich.*
3. **Subjects joined by 'or/nor':** verb agrees with the **nearest subject**
4. **Collective nouns:** singular or plural depending on meaning/context
 - *The jury has reached its verdict. vs The jury are arguing among themselves.*
5. **Relative clauses:** verb agrees with the noun the clause refers to
6. **Inverted sentences:** identify the subject and match it to the verb
 - *There is a book and two pens on the desk.*
7. **Titles, amounts, time, and distances:** treated as singular
 - *Ten dollars is too much.*

Use examples and ask students to help deduce the rule.

Guided Practice (20 minutes)

Activity: Rule Sorting and Application

- Provide a handout with mixed subject-verb examples.
- Students categorize each sentence by rule (e.g., "Rule 3: 'or/nor'").
- Then, they correct any errors in subject-verb agreement.

Production Activity (25 minutes)

Activity: Sentence Writing and Peer Review

1. Students write 5 complex sentences demonstrating different agreement rules.
2. Exchange papers with a partner and identify the subject and verb in each sentence.
3. Correct any agreement issues collaboratively.

Optional: Have a few examples reviewed as a class.

Wrap-Up and Homework (15 minutes)

Wrap-Up:

- Quick quiz (online or handout)
- Clarify any common mistakes observed during the lesson