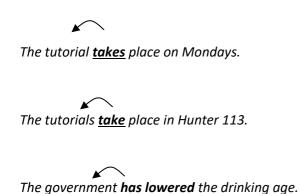


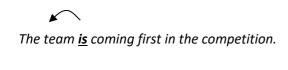
SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Usually, a singular subject has a singular verb and a plural subject has a plural verb:



The governments <u>have discussed</u> future trade agreements.

However, some nouns are singular or plural, depending on their meaning. If the word refers to the group as a whole, use a singular verb.



Statistics <u>has</u> a lecture on Mondays.

If the word refers to individual members or items, use a plural verb.



Statistics <u>have</u> shown an increase in the number of tertiary graduates over the past decade.







Practice A

Select the correct verb to agree with the subject of the sentence.

- 1. The committee has/have agreed to set aside funds for travel.
- 2. The committee **has/have** all contributed items for the garage sale.
- 3. Economics **gives/give** students a grounding in international relations.
- 4. The economics of podcasting is/are delicately balanced.
- 5. The government **has/have** introduced new legislation.

When there is a phrase between the subject and the verb

Note that phrases between the subject and verb do not affect the agreement:

The treaty between the two countries **was** ratified last year.

The members of the delegation **were** officially welcomed.

HINT: Cross out the intervening words:

The treaty between the two countries was ratified last year.

<u>The members</u> of the delegation were officially welcomed.



Practice B

Select the correct verb to agree with the subject of the sentence.

- Computer programming software developed in partnership with environmental scientists enables/enable researchers to study the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Market predictions for the coming financial year **indicates/indicate** a possible downturn in export growth.
- 3. A landmark study conducted in the early 1970s **has/have** been used as the basis for all subsequent research into early childhood behaviour.
- 4. The economic policies of the third Labour government, particularly in relation to welfare spending, **has/have** had a major impact on New Zealand's social development.

5. The benefits of bilingual education **takes/take** several generations to become obvious.

When the Verb Comes Before the Subject

Sometimes the verb comes *before* the subject in a sentence and this can be confusing. There are two main forms of this sentence: sentences or clauses starting with *there* or *here* and those that start with a **preposition**.

Sentences or clauses that start with here or there

From the beginning there <u>have been</u> many <u>interesting options</u> in Media Studies.



Practice C

Select the correct verb to agree with the subject of the sentence.

- 1. There has/have been an increase in the value of the Kiwi dollar in the past financial year.
- 2. Here **is/are** several differences in interpretation for you to consider.
- 3. There **is/are** two major issues that potential investors should consider: outlay and return.
- 4. Following the initial proposals, there **was/were** considerable opposition to the scheme from both sides.
- 5. After the ceremonies, there is/are usually up to ten days of feasting.