

Nellai MS Academy

GRAMMAR BRIDGE

Connecting Rules with Fun



DR. M. SARAVANAN MA M PHIL PHD

Grammar Bridge

Connecting Rules with Fun

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I am grateful to all my family members, friends and well-wishers who have been constantly inspiring and encouraging me in all my endeavours. Thank You all!

Dr. M. Saravanan

Director

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Subject-Verb Agreement

A VERB must agree with its SUBJECT in number (singular/plural) and Person (First/Second/Third).

I - Basic Rule:

- A singular subject takes a singular verb. (e.g., The **cat sits** on the mat.)
- A plural subject takes a plural verb. (e.g., The **cats sit** on the mat.)
- **Examples:**
- **Barking dogs** seldom **bite**.
- **The sun rises** in the east.

II - Subjects Joined by "And"

- Two or more subjects connected by "and" are usually considered plural and require a plural verb. (e.g., John and Mary walk to school.)
- **Examples:**
- Gold **and** silver **are** precious metals.
- Fire and water **do** not agree.

III - BUT if the nouns suggest one idea to the mind, or refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.

- **Examples:**
- Bread and butter **is** my only food.
- Time and tide **waits** for none.

IV - Subjects with "Each" or "Every"

- If a subject is singular but modified by "each" or "every," it takes a singular verb. (e.g., Each student **WALKS** to class.)
- **EXAMPLES:**
- Everyone of the boys **LOVES** to ride.
- Every child **RECEIVES** a gift.

V - Subjects Joined by "Or," "Nor," or "But"

- When plural subjects are joined by "or," "nor," or "but," the verb agrees with the subject closest to it. (e.g., Either John **WALKS** the dog, or Mary **DOES**.)
- **EXAMPLES:**
- Neither you nor he **is** to blame.
- Either he or I **am** mistaken.

VI - A verb should agree with its proper subject not with its nearest subject:

EXAMPLES:

The quality of the mangoes **was** not good.

Her knowledge of machine languages **is** far beyond the common.

VII - A singular subject connected by “with, as well as, along with, etc., are parenthetical. Therefore, the verb is singular.

• **EXAMPLES:**

- The house, with its contents, **was** insured.
- The ship, with its crew, **was** lost.

VIII -Some nouns which are plural in form but singular in meaning, take a singular verb:

• **EXAMPLES:**

- The news **is** true.
- Mathematics **is** a branch of study.

IX - When the plural noun is a proper name for a singular subject, the verb is singular.

EXAMPLES:

The Arabian Nights is a wonderful storybook.

The United Nations has a big navy.

X - When a plural noun denotes a unit of money, time or fraction, the verb is generally singular:

Fifteen minutes is allowed to each speaker.

Ten kilometers is a long walk.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - I

1. The cost of all the articles _____ (has/have) risen.
2. No news _____ (is/are) good news.
3. **The Three Musketeers** _____ (was/were) written by Dumas.
4. Each of the suspected men _____ (was/were) arrested.
5. Ninety rupees _____ (is/are) too much for this bag.
6. The cow as well as the horse _____ (eats/eat) grass.
7. Politics _____ (is/are) the business of his life.
8. Honour and glory _____ (is/are) his reward.
9. _____ (Is/Are) your mother and father at home?
10. He and I _____ (was/were) playing.
11. **Gulliver's Travels** _____ (was/were) written by Swift.
12. Fifty thousand rupees _____ (is/are) a large sum.
13. The class _____ (was/were) silent after it was punished.
14. The cat or the birds _____ (is/are) singing outside.
15. Everyone _____ (need/needs) a break sometimes.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - II

1. Caren, Sheela and Akash _____ (has/have) completed their assessments.
2. Your mom or dad _____ (has/have) to be here in an hour.
3. Nobody _____ (has/ have) understood anything.
4. Neither Ricky nor Gina _____ (is/are) here yet.
5. The news of demonetisation _____ (shock/shocks) the entire nation.
6. Here _____ (is/are) your book.
7. Don't you think 1000 rupees _____ (are/is) a little too much for a portrait?
8. Every teacher, parent and student _____ (are/is) expected to work together.
9. One of the plates _____ (is/are) broken.
10. The seven children from Chennai _____ (have/has) been selected for the final round of the quiz.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - III

1. A bouquet of yellow roses _____
(lend/lends) color and fragrance to the room.
2. My aunt or my uncle _____ (is/are) arriving by
train today.
3. Neither she nor my friends _____ (is/are)
going to the festival.
4. Breaking and entering _____ (is/are) against
the law.
5. The politician, along with the newsmen,
_____ (is/are) expected shortly.
6. Here _____ (is/are) the keys.
7. Three miles _____ (is/are) too far to walk.
8. Either Kiana or her friends _____ (is/are)
helping today with stage decorations.
9. Neither my dad nor my brothers
_____ (know/knows) how to ski.
10. Five years _____ (is/are) the maximum
sentence for that offense.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - IV

1. The hyenas _____ (feed/ feeds) on what the lions leave behind.
2. One thousand dollars _____ (is/are) too much.
3. The goose and the chickens _____ (is / are) early in the morning.
4. Just a card or a balloon _____ (is/are) enough.
5. Either the measurements or the calculations _____ (has/have) created a problem.
6. A basket of puppies _____ (is/are) in the living room.
7. The candidate, along with her supporters, _____ (leave / leaves) the building.
8. I invited ten people to the party, but only nine _____ (is/are) coming.
9. Atlas _____ (carry/carries) the world on his shoulders.
10. The students or the teacher _____ (has/have) to inform the principal.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - V

1. Annie and her brothers _____ (is / are) at school.
2. Either my mother or my father _____ (is / are) coming to the meeting.
3. One of my sisters _____ (is / are) going on a trip to France.
4. The players, as well as the captain, _____ (want / wants) to win.
5. Eight dollars _____ (is / are) the price of a movie these days.
6. There _____ (was / were) fifteen candies in that bag.
7. The Prime Minister, together with his wife, _____ (greet / greets) the press cordially.
8. Civics _____ (is / are) Andrea's favorite subject.
9. Every one of those books _____ (is / are) fiction.
10. Nobody _____ (know / knows) what my aspirations are.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - VI

1. My mom or dad _____ (is / are) coming to the play.
2. Either my grandpa or my sisters _____ (is/are) going to the park.
3. Everybody _____ (enjoy / enjoys) a good book.
4. Both _____ (is/are) qualified for the job.
5. Some more sugar _____ (is /are) required for taste.
6. Over the rainbow _____ (fly/flies) a bird.
7. He _____ (has / have) understood the assignment well.
8. They _____ (write / writes) everyday.
9. The student, as well as the committee members, _____ (is/are) excited.
10. Locally produced goods _____ (has/have) the advantage of shorter supply chains.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - VII

1. One of the glasses _____ (is/are) empty.
2. Radha and Meera _____ (is / are) coming home.
3. My dad or my mom _____ (is / are) arriving today.
4. Pratik, along with his brother, _____ (is/are) going to school.
5. Here _____ (is/are) the chocolates.
6. 62 years _____ (is / are) the minimum age of retirement.
7. Mathematics _____ (is / are) very difficult for some people.
8. One of the flowers _____ (has/have) wilted.
9. Here _____ (is/are) the newspaper.
10. Most of the milk _____ (is / are) gone.

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - VIII

1. The teacher, along with the students, ____ going on a trip tomorrow. (is / are)
2. Neither of the answers ____ correct. (is / are)
3. One of my friends ____ invited me to her wedding. (has / have)
4. Mathematics ____ my favourite subject. (is / are)
5. The players as well as the coach ____ excited about the match. (is / are)
6. Either the dog or the cats ____ making noise. (is / are)
7. Neither the manager nor his assistants ____ available right now. (is / are)
8. The committee ____ agreed to the new proposal. (has / have)
9. Each of the boys ____ done his homework. (has / have)
10. The crowd ____ cheering loudly for the team. (was/were)

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - IX

1. Ten kilometres ____ a long distance to walk. (is / are)
2. Neither the teacher nor the students ____ late today. (was / were)
3. The quality of these products ____ improved recently. (has / have)
4. A bouquet of roses ____ placed on the table. (was / were)
5. Every student and every teacher ____ to follow the new rules. (has / have)
6. The police ____ investigating the case. (is / are)
7. Neither my parents nor my brother ____ coming to the party. (is / are)
8. The news ____ too shocking to believe. (is / are)
9. A number of students ____ absent today. (is / are)
10. The number of students in this class ____ thirty.
(is / are)

Subject - Verb Agreement

Exercise - X

1. Each of the students _____ (has / have) completed the assignment.
2. Neither the teacher nor the students _____ (is / are) present today.
3. The quality of the apples _____ (was / were) excellent.
4. A number of students _____ (is / are) absent today.
5. Mathematics _____ (is / are) my favourite subject.
6. The boy along with his friends _____ (plays / play) cricket every evening.
7. One of the books _____ (belongs / belong) to me.
8. The committee _____ (has / have) taken a final decision.
9. Either of the answers _____ (seems / seem) correct.
10. There _____ (is / are) many reasons for his success.

Simple Tenses

1. Simple Present Tense

Explanation:

The simple present tense is used to talk about things that happen every day, usually, or always. It also tells us about facts or things that are always true.

We use the base form of the verb (like play, eat, go) for most subjects, but we add -s or -es for he, she, and it.

When do we use it?

- To talk about daily routines or habits and, general truths

To talk about things that happen again and again and to give instructions

Examples:

- I wake up at 6 o'clock every day.
- She drinks milk in the morning.

2. Simple Past Tense

Explanation:

The simple past tense is used to talk about actions that already happened. The action is finished.

Regular verbs usually end with -ed (like played, walked, jumped), but some verbs are irregular (like ate, went, saw).

When do we use it?

- To talk about something that happened before now
- To tell a story about the past
- To describe events that are finished

Examples:

- I played with my friends yesterday.
- She watched a cartoon last night.
- We went to the zoo on Sunday.

3. Simple Future Tense

Explanation:

The simple future tense is used to talk about things that will happen later.

We usually use will + verb to show something will happen in the future.

When do we use it?

- To talk about plans
- To talk about predictions
- To say something we decide to do right now
- To talk about promises

Examples:

- I will do my homework after dinner.
- She will go to the library tomorrow.
- They will play football on Saturday.

Continuous Tenses

1. Present Continuous Tense

Explanation: The present continuous tense is used to talk about actions that are happening right now or around this moment.

It is formed using am/is/are + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To talk about things happening at this moment
- To talk about actions happening “around now”
- To describe temporary actions
- To show something is changing or developing

Examples:

- I am drawing a picture.
- She is reading a storybook.

2. Past Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The past continuous tense is used to talk about actions that were happening at a certain time in the past.

It is formed using was/were + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To show an action that was in progress at a particular time in the past
- To describe two actions happening at the same time
- To show a longer action interrupted by a shorter one (usually simple past)

Examples:

- I was reading a book at 7 PM.
- They were playing football when it started to rain.

3. Future Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The future continuous tense is used to talk about actions that will be happening at a certain time in the future.

It is formed using will be + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To show an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future
- To describe planned future actions
- To show that something will happen over a period of time

Examples:

- I will be studying at 8 PM tonight.
- She will be traveling to the city tomorrow.

Perfect Tenses

1. Present Perfect Tense

Explanation:

The present perfect tense is used to talk about actions that happened in the past but are connected to the present.

It is formed using has/have + past participle (e.g., eaten, seen, played).

When do we use it?

- To talk about experiences (things you have done at some time in your life)
- To show actions that started in the past and continue to the present
- To show actions that just happened

Examples:

- I have finished my homework.
- She has visited the museum before.

2. Past Perfect Tense

Explanation:

The past perfect tense is used to talk about an action that happened before another action in the past.

It is formed using had + past participle.

When do we use it?

- To show the first action of two past actions
- To explain the order of events clearly
- To talk about something that was completed before a specific time in the past

Examples:

- I had finished my work before dinner started.
- She had left the classroom before the bell rang.

3. Future Perfect Tense

Explanation:

The future perfect tense is used to talk about an action that will be completed before a certain time in the future.

It is formed using will have + past participle.

When do we use it?

- To show that something will be finished by a specific future time
- To talk about future deadlines or goals
- To describe actions that will be completed before another future event

Examples:

- I will have finished my project by tomorrow.
- She will have learned the poem before the class starts.
- They will have reached school by 8 AM.

Perfect Continuous Tenses

1. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The present perfect continuous tense is used to talk about actions that started in the past and are still happening now, or actions that recently stopped but continued for some time.

It is formed using has/have been + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To show an action that began in the past and continues now
- To show how long something has been happening
- To talk about actions that were happening recently and have a result now

Examples:

- I have been reading this book for two weeks.
- She has been playing the piano since morning.

2. Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The past perfect continuous tense is used to talk about actions that were happening for some time before another action in the past.

It is formed using had been + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To show a longer past action that happened before another past event
- To talk about how long something had been happening before something else
- To give background details in a story

Examples:

- I had been studying for an hour before my friend arrived.
- She had been cooking when the guests came.

3. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The future perfect continuous tense is used to talk about actions that will continue for a period of time before a point in the future.

It is formed using will have been + verb + -ing.

When do we use it?

- To show how long an action will have been happening by a certain future time
- To talk about future actions that continue over time
- To show an ongoing action that will be completed in the future

Examples:

- I will have been studying for three hours by the time you arrive.
- She will have been working at the company for five years next month.

Tenses I

- 1) She _____ (go) to the market every Saturday.
- 2) They _____ (study) for their exams right now.
- 3) I _____ (not/see) him since last week.
- 4) When you arrive, we _____ (finish) our dinner.
- 5) He usually _____ (play) football on Sundays.
- 6) They _____ (travel) to Paris last summer.
- 7) I _____ (not/understand) this lesson at all.
- 8) She _____ (read) that book three times already.
- 9) We _____ (wait) for the bus when it started to rain.
- 10) The teacher _____ (give) us our homework yesterday.

Tenses II

- 1) She _____ (have) a birthday party next month.
- 2) I _____ (never/visit) that museum before.
- 3) They _____ (be) friends since childhood.
- 4) He _____ (work) on his project when the lights went out.
- 5) We _____ (watch) a movie at the cinema last night.
- 6) I _____ (not/like) chocolate when I was a child.
- 7) Before next year, she _____ (complete) her degree.
- 8) The children _____ (play) outside when it started to rain.
- 9) I _____ (finish) my homework before dinner last night.
- 10) She _____ (go) to the gym every morning.

Tenses III

- 1) She always _____ (go) to school by bus.
- 2) Last year, we _____ (travel) to Europe for our vacation.
- 3) Before he arrives, I _____ (finish) all my homework.
- 4) You _____ (not/see) that movie yet, have you?
- 5) When I was a child, I _____ (play) outside every day.
- 6) They _____ (study) for the test when the power went out.
- 7) She _____ (be) a teacher since 2010.
- 8) If it rains tomorrow, we _____ (stay) indoors.
- 9) I _____ (not/understand) why he didn't call me yesterday.
- 10) The committee _____ (meet) last week to discuss the proposal.

Tenses IV

1) He _____ (write) a novel for the past two years.

2) Before the end of this month, I _____ (complete) my project.

3) She _____ (think) that she could move to a new city.

4) They _____ (finish) their homework before dinner yesterday.

5) I _____ (read) this book three times already.

6) If you _____ (study), you will pass the exam.

7) The sun _____ (rise) in the east.

8) When you called me, I _____ (take) a shower.

9) I _____ (never/see) such a beautiful sunset before.

10) She _____ (not/like) spicy food since she was a child.

Tenses V

- 1) Revathi often _____ (read) books in the evenings.
- 2) Before you go to school, the exam _____ (start). Hurry up!
- 3) They _____ (live) in this city before they moved to the countryside.
- 4) If she _____ (study) harder, she would pass the exam.
- 5) I _____ (not/see) him since last week.
- 6) Look! The sun _____ (rise) in the east.
- 7) He _____ (play) football when he broke his leg.
- 8) Before the end of this year, I _____ (read) ten books.
- 9) If it _____ (rain) tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.
- 10) She _____ (not / finish) her homework yet.

Tenses VI

1) They _____ (submit) before the deadline yesterday.

2) They _____ (play) tennis when the power went out.

3) I _____ (think) about the pros and cons before I signed the proposal.

4) She _____ (write) a letter to her friend every week.

5) The children _____ (play) outside since morning.

6) He _____ (be) a doctor for over a decade now.

7) If I _____ (be) you, I would take that job offer.

8) They _____ (not / visit) the museum yet.

9) The cook _____ (bake) in the oven when I arrived.

10) She _____ (learn) French for two years now.

Tenses VII

- 1) When I opened my eyes, I _____
(see) a strange sight.
- 2) Every morning, she _____ (wake up)
early and gets ready for work.
- 3) If I knew what he wanted, I _____
(give) it to him.
- 4) I _____ (not / hear) anything from him
in a long time.
- 5) Jane _____ (live) with her parents.
- 6) She _____ (write) five novels so
far.
- 7) I _____ (teach) English for fifteen
years.
- 8) Abdul _____ (want) to be a doctor when
he was a kid.
- 9) He _____ (just / go) out. He must be
around the corner now.
- 10) We _____ (finish) breakfast before
the guests came.

Tenses VIII

- 1) I _____ (walk) for half an hour when it started raining.
- 2) Ashoka fell of the ladder when he _____ (mend) the roof.
- 3) The baby _____ (cry) all morning.
- 4) I _____ (see) Kumar this week.
- 5) I _____ (smell) something burning.
- 6) The town _____ (change) its appearance completely since 1980.
- 7) The train _____ (leave) at 17:00 this evening.
- 8) I will come as soon as I _____ (finish) my homework.
- 9) Why did you change the channel? I _____ (watch) the programme.
- 10) He admitted that he _____ (steal) all the money from the vault.

Tenses IX

1. Every time she _____ (visit) the library, she discovers a new author.
2. At this time tomorrow, the team _____ (present) their findings to the panel.
3. The technician usually _____ (check) the equipment before starting the experiment.
4. When the lights went out, the children _____ (sleep) peacefully.
5. By the end of this month, I _____ (complete) the certification course.
6. The teacher explained that the Earth _____ (revolve) around the Sun.
7. He _____ (write) three chapters so far but still needs to revise them.
8. While the manager was speaking, several issues _____ (raise) by the staff.
9. The train _____ (arrive) at Platform No. 3 every morning at 6 a.m.
10. She said that she _____ (work) on the proposal at that time.

Tenses X

1. The chef _____ (prepare) the dish when the guests unexpectedly arrived.
2. By next year, they _____ (establish) a research centre in the city.
3. The documents _____ (verify) before they are submitted to the authorities.
4. The audience remained silent while the verdict _____ (announce).
5. He rarely _____ (depend) on others for completing his tasks.
6. The lecturer _____ (discuss) climate change for over an hour before concluding.
7. As of now, the company _____ (experience) rapid growth.
8. The coach says that the final match _____ (start) next week.
9. She _____ (learn) French since she joined the institute.
10. He _____ (improve) his knowledge of grammar very much in the recent days.

Answer Key

Exercise – I

1. has
2. is
3. was
4. was
5. is
6. eats
7. is
8. is 9. Are 10. were
11. was 12. is 13. was
14. are 15. needs

Exercise – III

1. lends
2. is
3. are
4. is
5. is
6. are
7. is
8. are
9. know
10. is

Exercise – V

1. are
2. is
3. is
4. want
5. is
6. were
7. greets
8. is
9. is
10. knows

Exercise – VII

1. is
2. are
3. is
4. is
5. are
6. is
7. is
8. has
9. is
10. is

Exercise – IX

1. is
2. were
3. has
4. was
5. has
6. are
7. is
8. is
9. are
10. is

Exercise – II

1. have
2. has
3. has
4. is
5. shocks
6. is
7. is
8. is
9. is
10. have

Exercise – IV

1. feed
2. is
3. are
4. is
5. have
6. is
7. leaves
8. are
9. carries
10. has

Exercise – VI

1. is
2. are
3. enjoys
4. are
5. is
6. flies
7. has
8. write
9. is
10. have

Exercise – VIII

1. is
2. is
3. has
4. is
5. are
6. are
7. are
8. has
9. has
10. was

Exercise – X

1. has
2. are
3. was
4. are
5. is
6. plays
7. belongs
8. has
9. seems
10. are

Tenses I

1. goes
2. are studying
3. have not seen / haven't seen
4. will have finished
5. plays
6. travelled
7. do not understand
8. has read
9. were waiting
10. gave

Tenses III

1. goes
2. travelled
3. will have finished
4. haven't seen
5. played
6. were studying
7. has been
8. will stay
9. do not understand / don't understand
10. met

Tenses V

1. reads
2. will have started
3. had lived
4. studied
5. have not seen / haven't seen
6. is rising
7. was playing
8. will have read
9. rains
10. has not finished / hasn't finished

Tenses VII

1. saw
2. wakes up
3. would give
4. have not heard / haven't heard
5. lives
6. has written
7. have been teaching
8. wanted
9. has just gone
10. had finished

Tenses IX

1. visits
2. will be presenting
3. checks
4. were sleeping
5. will have completed
6. revolves
7. has written
8. were raised
9. arrives
10. was working

Tenses II

1. will have
2. have never visited
3. have been
4. was working
5. watched
6. did not like / didn't like
7. will have completed
8. were playing
9. had finished
10. goes

Tenses IV

1. has been writing
2. will have completed
3. thought
4. had finished
5. have read
6. study
7. rises
8. was taking
9. have never seen
10. has not liked / hasn't liked

Tenses VI

1. submitted
2. were playing
3. had thought
4. writes
5. have been playing
6. has been
7. were
8. have not visited / haven't visited
9. was baking
10. has been learning

Tenses VIII

1. had been walking
2. was mending
3. has been crying
4. have seen
5. smell
6. has changed
7. leaves
8. finish
9. was watching
10. had stolen

Tenses X

1. was preparing
2. will have established
3. are verified
4. was announced
5. depends
6. had been discussing
7. is experiencing
8. will start
9. has been learning
10. has improved



—————→ **About the Author** ←————

Dr. M. SARAVANAN is the Director of Nellai MS Academy, Tirunelveli. He is a Doctorate in English Literature with SET and CELTA (Cambridge Qualifications) qualifications. With more than 20 years of teaching and training experience, he has been promoting English LSRW skills among school & college students, working professionals, job seekers and so on. This is his seventh book on Functional English Grammar for elementary and intermediate learners of English language.



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