

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TOPIC: CONCORD

MEANING: Concord in grammar simply means a grammatical agreement between the subject and the verb, between a pronoun and its antecedent.

RULES OF CONCORD SS 3, WK2 AND 3

1. When the subject is singular, it takes a singular verb, and when the subject is plural, a plural verb follows. Examples:

[a] Ayo attends to his friends twice a week.

[b] Literature –In –English is my best subject.

[c] Olu has enough money.

NOTE: When the first person singular pronoun 'I' is used with the

Primary auxiliary verb 'have' the verb 'have' is used in the

Plural sense. Examples: (i) I have [plural] more than five

Books in Mathematics . (ii) I have warned Sola against coming late to school.

2. When two or more singular subjects are connected by 'and', a plural verb is used. Examples: (i) The Principal and his wife **are** wonderful. (ii) Taiwo and Kehinde **do** things in common. (iii) My sister and my confidante **are** very hard working.

However, there are some exceptions to 'rule 2'.

(a) When the two singular subjects which are connected by **and** refer to the same person or thing, a singular verb follows:

Examples: (i) My sister and confidante **is** very hard working.

(The second subject **confidante** does not take a different modifier –‘my’, hence, she (**confidante**) is the same person as my sister). (ii) My brother and friend **shares** the same opinion with me on political issues. (iii) Bread and butter **is** a good combination.

(b) When indefinite pronouns **every** and **each** are used with the two singular subjects connected by **and**, a singular verb follows. This means each of the subjects is regarded as individual entity on its own.

Examples: (i) Each window and door **is** securely locked after every service. (ii) Every teacher and student **has** a role to play in the development of the school.

3. When two or more singular subjects are joined by **neither-nor**, **either-or**, **not only-but**, a singular verb is used.

Examples: (i) Neither Kehinde nor Taiwo **qualifies** for the award. (ii) Either the principal or the vice principal **gives** out the certificate. (iii) Not Taiwo but Kehinde **was** responsible for the theft. However, if one of the subjects is plural, the rule of proximity (nearness) is applied. In other words, the last subject that precedes the verb determines the number (singular or plural) of the verb used.

Examples: (i) Neither the chairman nor his councilors “have” a sense of direction. (Have is immediately preceded by councilors [plural] the chairman, hence the councilors (plural) determine the verb ‘have’ (plural).

4. When a singular subject is connected to other subjects [whether singular or plural] by ‘as well as, including, with, together with, along with, in addition to’ a singular verb is used.

Example: (i) The king together with his chiefs **encourages** the militant youths. (ii) English Language as well as Biology is compulsory.

5. When indefinite pronouns like 'nobody, anybody, anyone, someone, somebody, no one, none, everybody, etc are subjects in a sentence, a singular verb is used.

Examples: [i] Somebody 'sneaks' in at nights to steal the blind woman's money. [ii] Nobody 'cares' about the state of the flock.

6. In a complex sentence, the antecedent of the relative pronoun that acts as the subject of the subordinate clause determines the verb.

Examples: [i] The retired military officer is one of the past leaders who are embodiment of corruption. Note: **Who** is the subject of the subordinate relative clause – who are embodiment of corruption. The antecedent of **who, leaders** is plural, hence the plural verb **are**. (ii) One of the suits which **were** purchased abroad is already torn. (Suits is the antecedent of **which**).