Advanced ESL Lesson
Writing Good Sentences – Day 2
Verbs and Subject Verb Agreement

Objectives:
- Review the components of a sentence and the subject of a sentence
- Learn the definition of verbs (doing and helping) and be able to locate them in sentences along with subjects
- Be able to generate verbs for sentences
- Understand the basic rules of subject-verb agreement and be able to apply those rules
- NOTE: There is an extra activities sheet in this folder that can be used by students who finish their work quickly. Please note what you used in your lesson report for the subsequent teachers.

1. Break the class into pairs or small groups and have them do the review activity. They should decide if each one is a sentence. If it is a sentence, they should circle the subject. Correct as a class.

2. Introduce the two types of verbs.
   - To discover “doing” verbs, divide the students into teams and have each team generate as many “doing” verbs as possible in five minutes or more if they’re still going at five minutes. If possible, have the teams write their verbs on the board during the game so the class can review them together when the time is up.
   - For helping verbs, walk through the explanation and examples on the worksheet.

3. Ask them to do Practice 1 individually or in pairs and correct them together as a class.

4. Do the Mad Libs in pairs, one partner asking for the parts of speech for Mad Libs #1 and the other for Mad Libs #2. The goal is to have them generate nouns and verbs and have some fun with the result. Use the practice at the end of this sheet to give them the idea of how ask each other for the nouns and verbs.

5. Subject-Verb Agreement: Review the rules sheet, doing the practices in the worksheet. You may need to review the singular and plural of regular verbs.

Practice Mad Lib

My (noun) _____ went across the street and [past tense verb] ______ a tree.
Writing Good Sentences: Day 2

Review Activity. Is it a sentence? If it is, identify the subject and circle it.

1. Google is easy to use.

2. Went by quickly.

3. Maria and Mohammed come to every class.

4. Sat in the front row.

5. The computer screen.

6. Let's go now.

7. The sink was full of dishes.

8. I'm excited!

9. Abdullahi went shopping at the mall.

10. You and I have the same pen.

Verbs

Verbs are words that tell us what is being done in the sentence. The two types of verb are

- **Doing Verbs** – things you do (go, stand, give, jump, yell, etc.)

- **Helping Verbs** – used with Doing Verbs to give them an exact meaning. Helping verbs always come before the doing verb. The helping verbs are
  - is, am, are, been – indicates something happening now
    - Example: He is walking to work.
  - was, were – indicates something that happened over a period of time in the past
Example: *He was walking to work*

- be, being, – indicates something that will take place over a period of time in the future
  - Example: *He will be walking to work.*
- has, have, had – indicates something was completed in the past
  - Example: *He had walked to work.*
- do, does, did – used to form negatives
  - Example: *He did not walk to work.*
- shall, will – Indicates future action
  - Example: *He will walk to work.*
- may, might, must; can, could, should, would – indicates possibility, permission, or politeness.
  - Example: *I may walk to work.*
  - Example: *May I walk to work?*

**Practice 1. Identifying Subjects and Verbs.** Circle the subject and underline the doing and helping verbs in each.

1. Nick will eat spaghetti and meatballs for dinner tonight.

2. Mallory is walking to the park.

3. The dogs are sleeping on the bed.

4. Elizabeth and Cheyenne had gone to the library.

5. Those quick squirrels have run up the maple tree.

6. The girls were making colorful chalk drawings on the sidewalk.

7. I am going away for the weekend.

8. Nelson has built a huge castle in the sand.

9. Miranda can swim in the pool after dinner.

10. The car is making an awful noise.
Mad Lib 1. Ask your partner to fill in the blanks by asking them for a word that's a noun or a verb. Don't show them the story until you have all the blanks filled in.

On the first day of school, my (noun) ______ woke me up very early. I (past tense verb) ______ some (plural noun) ______, and waited for the (noun) ______ to arrive. My parents said, “Don’t (verb) ______ in class, and never [verb] ______ when you’re at school. The bus was full of [plural noun] ______ and everyone was [verb with -ing ending] _______. On the way to school the bus passed a [noun]______, a [noun] ________, and a [noun] ________. 
Mad Lib 2.

When I got to school, I [past tense verb] _________ because I was so excited. At school the teacher said welcome, [verb] _________ your [noun] _________.

She said today we will be [verb with -ing ending] _________ pencils and markers.

At lunchtime I ate a [noun] _________ sandwich and [present verb] _________ a Pepsi. At 3:00 o'clock I [present verb] _________ the bus and went to my [noun] _________ . What a great [noun] _________ !
Subject/Verb Agreement Rules

This handout gives you several guidelines to help your subjects and verbs agree in common situations.

1. When the subject of a sentence contains two or more nouns or pronouns connected by and, use a plural verb.

   Example: She and her friends are at the fair.

   Practice 1. She and her sister (is, are) applauding for the winners.

   Practice 2. Jose and Mohammed (were, was) class on Tuesday.

2. When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by or or nor, use a singular verb.

   Example: The book or the pen is in the drawer.

   Practice 1. After every performance, she or her friend (bow, bows) to the audience.

   Practice 2. Either Juan or Layla (is, are) at class every Tuesday.

3. When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by or or nor, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is nearer the verb.

   Example: The boy or his friends run every day.

   Practice 1. The man and his children (run, runs) at the park everyday.

4. Doesn't is a contraction of does not and should be used only with a singular subject.

   Example: He doesn't like it. Never - They doesn't like it.

5. Don't is a contraction of do not and should be used only with a plural subject

   Example: They don't like it. Never - He don't like it.

6. The words each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one are singular and require a singular verb.
Examples: Each of these hot dogs is juicy. Everybody knows Jim Jones. Either is correct.

Practice 1. Someone (are, is) on the way to help us.
Practice 2. Does anyone (know, knows) the answer?

7. Nouns such as civics, mathematics, measles, and news require singular verbs.

Example: The news is on at six.

Practice 1: The measles (are, is) worse than the mumps.

8. Nouns such as scissors, tweezers, pants, and shears require plural verbs. (There are two parts to these things.)

Examples: These scissors are dull. Those pants are made of wool.

9. In sentences beginning with there is or there are, the subject follows the verb. Since there is not the subject, the verb agrees with what follows.

Examples: There are many questions. There is a question.

Practice 1. There (is, are) fourteen students in the class.

Practice 2. There (is, are) a blooming tree near my house.

10. Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but that are considered singular and take a singular verb, such as group, team, committee, class, and family.

Examples: The team runs during practice. The committee decides how to proceed. The family has a long history. My family has never been able to agree.

Practice 1. The class (does, do) a review every week.

Practice 2: My family always (walk, walks) after dinner.
Subject Verb Agreement

A singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb. So you need to figure out if the subject is singular or plural and decide which is the correct singular or plural form of the verb.

Practice 2: Choose the verb that agrees with the subject.

Example: Dogs (is, are) the best pets. Are is the answer because the subject of the sentence, Dogs, is plural.

1. Cinco de Mayo (is, are) an important Mexican holiday.

2. We (celebrates, celebrate) the Mexican victory at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

3. The celebration (include, includes) parades and dancing.

4. The women dancers (wears, wear) swirling skirts or brilliant colors.

5. The floats (is, are) very colorful.
Extra Activities Sheet

Unscramble the words to make a sentence.

1. store! to Welcome my

*Solution: Welcome to my store!*

2. coat. I to Yes. return this want

3. something there wrong Okay. Was it? with

4. It's Yes. too tight.

5. it for looser want you Do to one? exchange a

6. toys. return are these just want noisy. I to They too

7. ones? Do you quieter want

8. No, I thank refund. a just you. want

9. you receipt? Do your have

10. shirt you Which better? like do
11. do like better? Which you hat

12. softer. much hat. like It's colorful I the

13. too. and lot expensive, more it's Yes, a

14. more How expensive? much

15. It hundred dollars. one costs

16. nicer, a expensive. It's a a but more hundred lot dollars is little