

# Grammaire: Subjects and Verb agreement!

## Introduction to Verb Conjugation and Subject Pronouns

# Every sentence has

- A subject AND a verb
- Subject is what the sentence is about or the doer of an action. Sometimes the subject is a name or names, other times the subject is a pronoun like he or she, we, or I.

## Definitions:

- A verb is a word that describes an action.
- The subject pronoun is the doer of the action.
- The infinitive is the basic form of the verb.  
In English it includes the word "to."

Ex. to walk

- The conjugation is the form of the verb that agrees with (matches) a subject pronoun.

Ex. He walks

- The object receives the action of the verb, in this case, what does the subject have?

# SUBJECTS AND VERBS

- Subjects and Verbs must agree in English and in French.
- The following sentence is incorrect in English; I has a pencil.  
“I have a pencil.”

Subject pronouns in French are:

|          |      |       |
|----------|------|-------|
| I        | Je   |       |
| You      | Tu   | Vous  |
| He (it)  | Il   |       |
| She (it) | Elle |       |
| We       | Nous |       |
| They     | Ils  | Elles |



You use TU and VOUS only when you are talking directly TO someone.

You use the other pronouns to talk ABOUT someone.

Tupac



Vouspac



Use TU to talk to

- 1) a young person; or
- 2) a friend; or
- 3) a family member

Use VOUS to talk to

- 1) an adult; or
- 2) more than one person



Use JE to talk about yourself

Use NOUS to talk about one or more persons plus yourself (Sophie et moi = nous)

Use ILS to talk about

1) two or more males; or masculine nouns

2) a mixed group or males and females

Example: Les profs can be replaced by ils so it uses the ils form of the verb.

Use ELLES to talk about two or more females or feminine nouns Example : les portes

IL EST means HE IS and it may also mean IT IS referring to a masculine object.

Ex. Le bureau a un cahier. Il a un cahier bleu.

ELLE EST means SHE IS and it may also mean IT IS referring to a feminine object.

Ex. La salle de classe a une chaise. Elle a une chaise bleue.

Essayons! Quel Pronom Sujet?

*Let's try! Which Subject Pronoun?*



|   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. to talk about Laura and Pauline and Caroline | elles |
| 2. to talk to a teacher                         | vous  |
| 3. to talk to your best friend                  | tu    |
| 4. to talk about "le chocolat"                  | il    |
| 5. to talk about "la glace"                     | elle  |
| 6. to talk about Paul and Sara                  | ils   |
| 7. to talk to the principal                     | vous  |
| 8. to talk about you and your best friend       | nous  |
| 9. to talk about "une amie"                     | elle  |
| 10. to talk about Sophie                        | elle  |
| 11. to talk about yourself                      | je    |
| 12. to talk to your cousin                      | tu    |
| 13. to talk about "la pizza"                    | elle  |
| 14. to talk about you and your family           | nous  |
| 15. to talk to a group of friends               | vous  |



Now that you have identified the subject, pick the verb form that matches

- When you have the subject of the sentence then you look at your verb chart to find the correct match on the verb chart. If you have a proper name or noun instead of a pronoun, figure out the pronoun that could replace the subject and then look on your verb chart to find the correct form of the verb. There will only be one correct form!

# TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

| I am                      | We are               |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| You are                   | You all are          |
| He is<br>She is<br>One is | They are<br>They are |

We don't say I is or He am. We match the subject with the correct form of the verb. This is called **CONJUGATION** – which is matching the right verb with the correct subject. We do the same in French!

# Now in your notebook

- Copy the chart on the following slide.
- Be sure to distinguish the subjects from the verb forms. Underline or highlight the forms of avoir or write them in a different color as shown.

# The verb ETRE

- The forms of the verb are in **RED**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Je <b>suis</b> I am   | Nous <b>sommes</b> We are   |
| Tu <b>es</b> You are informal   | Vous <b>êtes</b> You all are<br>or You formal are   |
| Il <b>est</b> He (It) is<br>Elle <b>est</b> She (It) is<br>On <b>est</b> One is *<br>Il can be used for a male or a<br>masculine object<br>Elle can be used for a female<br>or feminine thing | Ils <b>sont</b> They are (m)<br>Elles <b>sont</b> They are (f)<br>Ils can be used for males or<br>masculine things or mixed<br>group<br>Elles can be used for females<br>or feminine things |



# Matching a subject and a verb

- When you need to figure out which form of the verb goes with which subject, you refer to your chart. For the verb être, there are six options; suis, es, est, sommes, êtes or sont.
- **NO OTHER WORDS ARE OPTIONS!**
- ☺ Make every sentence agree by choosing the correct verb to follow your subject.

Sometimes the subject isn't a pronoun and that's okay.

- Just match what the proper name would be replaced by and THEN find the verb form.
- *The boy is* a tall.
- *The boys are* tall.
- *The whiteboards are in the classroom.*
- *The whiteboard is in* some classrooms.
- It is the same deal in French!

# Example

- *Le garçon **est** grand.*
- *Les garçons **sont** grands.*
- *Le tableau **est** dans la salle de classe.*
- *Les tableaux **sont** dans des salles de classe.*

The order of these sentences is just like English, subject + verb + object. The object does not determine the verb, only the subject!

# Hold up the correct form

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| <b>suis</b> | <b>sommes</b> |
| <b>es</b>   | <b>êtes</b>   |
| <b>est</b>  | <b>sont</b>   |



# Let's try! Practiquons!

- Please hold up the correct index card for that would complete the sentence.
- **1.) Je \_\_\_\_\_ sympa.**

Try again!

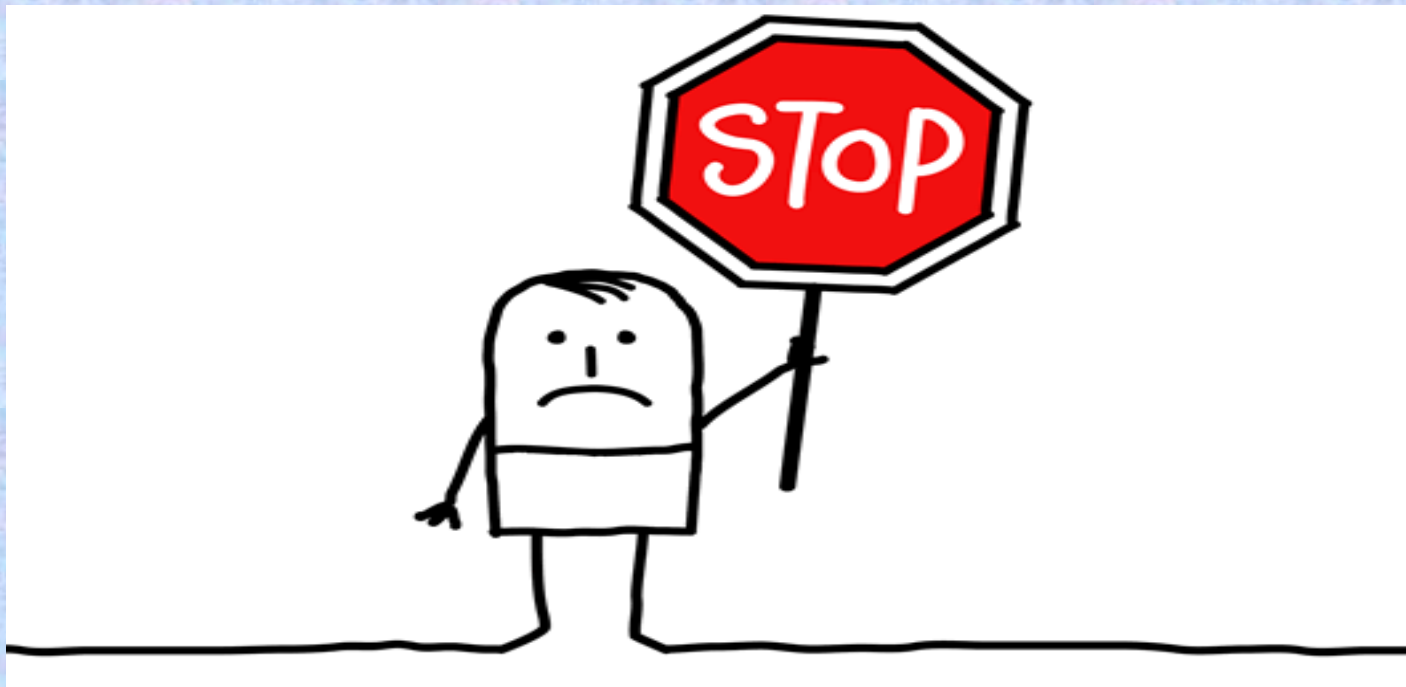
- **2.) Sophie et Claudette  
\_\_\_\_\_ des filles.**
- **What's the subject?**
- **What form of être matches?**
- **How do you know?**

Try again

- 3.) Tu \_\_\_\_\_ un crayon.
- Silly sentence alert!

# DO YOU GET IT?

- If not, stop and ask a question!





Try again

- 4.) Le tableau \_\_\_\_\_  
dans (in) la salle de  
classe.

Try another!

• 5.) Des tableaux  
           dans la salle  
de classe.

- Please note the subject and verb is not changed by the object. Don't worry about the number of boards, just the whiteboards are the subject!

Keep going!

- 6.) Les professeurs \_\_\_\_\_  
intelligents.
- Think: What's the subject?

A few more

- 7.) Une feuille de papier \_\_\_\_\_ dans le sac à dos.



And again...

- 8. ) Marc et moi  
n' \_\_\_\_\_ pas en classe  
aujourd'hui.

You are all on a roll now!

- 9.) Sophie et Claude  
\_\_\_\_\_ français.

Now you are a master! ?

- 10.) Marie \_\_\_\_\_  
une élève.

Last one!

- 11.) Vous n'\_\_\_\_\_ pas de filles.



# Check your work! 11/11?

- 1.) Je suis sympa.
- 2.) Sophie et Claudette sont des filles.
- 3.) Tu es un crayon. (MDR)
- 4.) Le tableau est dans la salle de classe.
- 5.) Des tableaux sont dans la salle de classe.
- 6.) Les professeurs sont intelligents.
- 7.) Une feuille de papier est dans le sac à dos.
- 8.) Marc et moi ne sommes pas dans la salle de classe.
- 9.) Sophie et Claude sont français.
- 10.) Marie est une élève.
- 11.) Vous n'êtes pas de filles.