

Grammar Explanation

Subject-Verb Agreement: Sentences with *there is/there are*

- When there is a long noun phrase, identify the base noun and make sure it agrees with the verb. Remember that noun phrases that begin with *one of* take a singular verb.
 - Example: **The failure** of the government to pass fair labor laws **has** allowed businesses to exploit workers.
 - Example: **One of** the challenges faced by government officials **is** preventing further terrorist attacks.
- When a sentence begins with the structure *there* + BE, the verb BE agrees with the noun that follows it.
 - Example: *There was* no **response** from the union regarding salary increases.
 - Example: *There are* many **questions** that need to be looked into regarding the September 11 attacks.
- When two subjects are connected with *either ... or*, or *neither ... nor*, the verb agrees with the subject that is nearest to it.
 - Example: *Neither the government nor the unions* **protect** workers' rights.
 - Example: *Neither the unions nor the government* **protects** workers' rights.
- When the subject of a sentence is a gerund (*verb + ing*), the verb that follows is singular.
 - Example: **Lobbying** is one of the techniques used by corporations to influence policies and labor laws.

Excerpted from: Subject-Verb Agreement: Exercise 4