PLURALS

Like a noun, the verb also takes the form of a singular or plural verb. The important thing in verb plurals is to first identify whether the subject is singular or plural i.e. think of which verb you would use with he or she and which verb you would use with they.

- He talks.
- They talk.

Here, talks is used for the singular form, he while talk is used for the plural form they. Therefore, ‘talks’ is singular and ‘talk’ is plural.

Verb plurals follow certain rules:

Rule 1: Two singular subjects connected by ‘or’ or ‘nor’, either/or or neither/nor require a singular verb.
- My aunt or my uncle is arriving by train today.
- Neither Raj nor Rana is available.

Rule 2: When I is one of the two subjects connected by either/or or neither/nor, put it second and follow it with the singular verb ‘am’.
- Neither she nor I am going to the festival.

Rule 3: When a singular subject is connected by ‘or’ or ‘nor’, either/or or neither/nor to a plural subject, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb.
- The serving bowl or the plates go on that shelf.
- Neither John nor the others are available.

Rule 4: As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by ‘and’.
- A dog and a cat are my pet animals.

Rule 5: Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by words such as along with, as well as, besides, or not. Ignore these expressions when determining whether to use a singular or plural verb.
- The politician, along with his party members, is expected shortly.
- Knowledge, as well as fun, is the aim of this workshop.