If your instructor tells you that you have problems with subject-verb agreement, that means that you are using the incorrect forms of verbs.

Present-tense verbs have different forms depending on whether their subject is singular or plural. In general, present-tense verbs whose subject is singular end in -s or -es (The horse runs). Present-tense verbs whose subject is plural do not take a different ending (Horses run). Some verbs are irregular, however. Consult your grammar textbook or handout for a list of common irregular verbs and their forms.

These are some common issues that can cause subject-verb agreement errors:

Making the verb agree with the wrong noun: Even if there are other nouns in a sentence, the verb must agree with the subject.

- **Wrong:** The cooks in the kitchen works hard.
- **Right:** The cooks in the kitchen work hard.

Compound subjects: A subject that contains more than one noun, joined with the word and, should be treated as plural.

- **Wrong:** Matt and Jon jogs every day.
- **Right:** Matt and Jon jog every day.

Subjects joined by or, nor, either...or, or neither...nor: Verbs following these subjects should agree with the noun closest to the verb.

- **Wrong:** Either water or juices quenches thirst.
- **Right:** Either water or juices quench thirst.

Indefinite pronouns (anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, somebody, someone, something): These are singular.

- **Wrong:** Everybody in my class study hard.
- **Right:** Everybody in my class studies hard.
Correct the subject-verb agreement errors in the sentences below.

1. The kids in the daycare plays all day.
Correction:
_______________________________________________________________________

2. Jack and Peter swims in the pool.
Correction:
_______________________________________________________________________

3. Neither Nate nor his friends knows what to do.
Correction:
_______________________________________________________________________

Your instructor or tutor has identified some subject-verb agreement errors in your writing. Write out some phrases or sentences they’ve indicated and correct them below.
Sentence:
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Correction:
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Sentence:
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Correction:
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Sentence:
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