

Subject-Verb Agreement in Present Simple

Quick reminder:

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<u>1st person:</u>	I	We
<u>2nd person:</u>	You	You
<u>3rd person:</u>	He, She, It	They

- Other examples of **3rd person singular** : Government, syllabus, discrimination
- Other examples of **3rd person plural** : Currencies, exports, goods and services

Whenever you construct a sentence, the subject and the verb have to agree.
In different tenses the subjects and the verbs agree differently:

Present Simple Tense

Present simple tense expresses a usual, repetitive and current action.

- “I, you, we, they” agree with the infinitive form of the verb¹, without adding any endings.

Examples: I dedicate 5 hours a day to my homework assignments.

You attend the office hours of your professor each week.

Exports leave a country in order to be sold in another country.

- **However**, in order to agree with the **third person singular**, the verb must always have an “s” at the end.

3rd person singular → infinitive verb + “s”

Examples: He actively **participates** in all group discussions during philosophy lessons.

The **exchange rate adjusts** itself depending on the demand and supply of the currency.

¹ It is the form of the verb which appears in the dictionaries (e.g. to learn, prepare, interpret)

Exceptions

Infinitive Verbs that End with “s”

When **3rd person singular** agrees with verbs that end with “s” (e.g. pass, address, assess, etc.), “es” ending is added

3rd person singular → infinitive verb that ends with “s” + “es”

Example: The **government passes** new legislation about the protection of the environment.

Infinitive Verbs “to be” and “to have”

“to have” and “to be” verbs are irregular in present simple tense

- “to have” changes only in **3rd person singular**
- “to be” is different with each **singular subject**

I have	We have	I am	We are
You have	You have	You are	You are
He/She/It has	They have	He/She/It is	They are

Examples with verb “to have”:

- **Aggregate demand has** 3 components: consumption, investment and government spending.
- Today **we have** a meeting about organizational issues.

Examples with verb “to be”:

- **I am** a first year undergraduate student at AUA.
- **You**, as an ordinary employee, **are** always less privileged than your manager.
- The Armenian **economy is** in a recession.