

English Confidence Pro

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SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

নিয়ম মাত্র একটি: বাক্যের Subject যদি Singular হয়, তবে Verb-ও Singular হবে; আর Subject যদি Plural হয়, তবে Verb-ও Plural হবে।

In simple terms:

- Singular subject → Singular verb → He works hard.
- Plural subject → Plural verb → They work hard.

এই একটিমাত্র নিয়মকেই আমরা ৬টি ধাপে শিখব – কারণ আসল চ্যালেঞ্জটা নিয়ম মনে রাখায় নয়, Subject চেনায়।

STEP 01: Singular Subject → Singular Verb

এই Step-এর সব Subject-ই 3rd Person Singular – তাই এদের পরে সবসময় Singular Verb বসে।

He, she it, this, that
Each, every, either, neither
Singular noun, uncountable noun, collective noun
Participle, infinitive
Indefinite pronoun: (Everyone, everybody, everything, etc.)
Quantity Phrases: (The number of, many a/an, more than one, One of the, etc.)
Academic subject, book title, disease, time, distance, etc.

These subjects are always treated as grammatically singular. In simple

present tense, add -s or -es to the base verb. Think of each one as a single unit or a single idea.

1.1 — Singular & Uncountable Nouns

Category	Examples
Singular Pronouns	He, She, It, That, This
Singular Noun	The student, The report, The chart
Uncountable Noun	Information, evidence, knowledge, research, data*
Verb + -ing as subject	Swimming is healthy.
To + Verb as subject	To learn English is important.

Note: 'data' is often used as singular in IELTS writing, but in scientific contexts it can be plural.

1.2 — Each, Every, Either, Neither (used alone)

These four words, when used alone as subjects or determiners, always take a singular verb.

Subject	Example
Each	Each student has submitted the assignment.
Every	Every graph shows an upward trend.
Either	Either option is acceptable.
Neither	Neither answer is correct.

Note: Exception — post-positive "each": When "each" comes after a plural subject, the verb follows the plural subject: The students each have their own role.

1.3 — Quantity Phrases (Always Singular)

Phrase	Example
The number of + plural noun	The number of cars is increasing.
Many a/an + singular noun	Many a student has failed this test.
More than one + singular noun	More than one country has adopted this policy.
One of the + plural noun	One of the graphs shows a sharp rise.
Each of the + plural noun	Each of the students was present.
Either of the + plural noun	Either of the answers is correct.
Neither of the + plural noun	Neither of the options is suitable.
One and a half + plural noun	One and a half hours is enough.

Note: "More than one + singular noun" takes a singular verb. BUT "more than one of the + plural noun" takes a plural verb: More than one of the countries have adopted this policy.

1.4 — Indefinite Pronouns (Always Singular)

All compound pronouns ending in -body, -one, and -thing take a singular verb.

Group	Pronouns
Every-	Everybody, Everyone, Everything

Any-	Anybody, Anyone, Anything
Some-	Somebody, Someone, Something
No-	Nobody, No one, Nothing

1.5 — Amounts Treated as a Single Unit

When a quantity refers to a single measurable amount rather than individual items, it takes a singular verb.

Category	Example
Distance	Fifty kilometres is a reasonable commute.
Time	Ten years is a long time to wait.
Weight	Ninety kilograms is too heavy.
Money	Five thousand dollars was the registration fee.
Academic subject	Physics is considered a challenging subject.
Book title	Arabian Nights is a classic collection of stories.
Disease	Diabetes is a growing global health concern.
Country (plural name)	The United States is a major trading partner.

1.6 — Collective Nouns (Important for IELTS)

A collective noun names a group but is treated as a single unit in academic English. In IELTS Writing, singular verbs are standard.

Collective Noun	Example
The committee	The committee has reached a decision.
The government	The government is planning new reforms.
The team	The team was selected carefully.

The jury	The jury has delivered its verdict.
The public	The public is increasingly concerned about pollution.
The class	The class has finished the assignment.

Note: In British English, collective nouns sometimes take plural verbs (The team have their own opinions). For IELTS academic writing, singular is safer and more consistent.

Step 01 — Examples

Singular Noun / Uncountable Noun

Basic	The report shows a steady increase in global temperatures.
IELTS	The information provided in the pie chart indicates that more than half of the respondents prefer online learning.
X Error	The evidence suggest that the policy has had no measurable impact.
✓ Corrected	The evidence suggests that the policy has had no measurable impact. [evidence = uncountable → singular]

Each / Every / Either / Neither

Basic	Each student has submitted the assignment on time.
IELTS	Every graph in the report clearly demonstrates the upward trend in renewable energy consumption.
X Error	Neither of the two methods were effective in reducing carbon emissions.
✓ Corrected	Neither of the two methods was effective in reducing carbon emissions.

The Number of / Many a / More than one

Basic	The number of students applying for university is rising every year.
IELTS	The number of people living in urban areas has doubled over the past two decades, as the bar chart clearly illustrates.
X Error	More than one country have adopted this environmental policy.
✓ Corrected	More than one country has adopted this policy.

Indefinite Pronouns

Basic	Everybody in the classroom was required to submit the form before the deadline.
IELTS	Nothing in the available data suggests that the policy has had any measurable positive impact on employment rates.
X Error	Someone among the senior researchers have questioned the methodology.
✓ Corrected	Someone among the senior researchers has questioned the methodology.

Distance / Time / Weight / Money / Subjects

Basic	Twenty kilometres is a reasonable distance to commute daily by public transport.
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IELTS	According to the table, fifty billion dollars was invested in clean energy infrastructure globally in 2022.
X Error	Physics are considered one of the most challenging subjects in secondary education.
✓ Corrected	Physics is considered one of the most challenging subjects in secondary education.

IELTS Tip	"The number of..." and "The proportion of..." always take singular verbs in Writing Task 1.
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STEP 02: Plural Subject → Plural Verb

এই Step-এর সব Subject-ই Plural – তাই এদের পরে সবসময় Plural Verb বসে।

You, we, they, these, those
Others, few, a few, both, many, several
Plural noun, a number of
...and..., both...and
The + adjective

These subjects represent more than one person, thing, or idea. In simple present tense, use the base verb without -s or -es.

2.1 — Plural Pronouns

Category	Pronouns
Personal	You, We, They
Demonstrative	These, Those
Quantifiers	Both, Many, Several, Few, A few, Others

Note on "You": "You" always takes a plural verb form – even for one person: "You are my friend." (NOT "You is"). এটা English-এর একটি fixed pattern।

2.2 – Plural Noun Structures

Structure	Example
Plural Noun	Students are required to register.
A number of + noun	A number of issues have been raised.
A couple of + noun	A couple of problems have emerged.
Both ... and ...	Both the teacher and the student were present.
[Noun] and [Noun]	Jack and Jill have arrived.
The + Adjective (group)	The elderly face significant challenges.

2.3 – The + Adjective (Referring to a Group)

When "the" precedes an adjective to refer to an entire group of people, the verb is always plural.

Example
The poor need better support from the government.
The unemployed are supported by welfare programmes.
The elderly often face barriers when accessing digital services.
The wealthy do not always understand economic inequality.

2.4 – Always-Plural Nouns (Important for IELTS)

Some nouns always take plural verbs, even though they look or feel singular.

Noun	Example
The police	The police are investigating the incident.
The media	The media have a responsibility to report accurately.
The people	The people were not consulted before the policy was introduced.

2.5 — "And" Exceptions

Rule	Example
And-এর আগে ও পরে উভয় দিকে "The" থাকলে → ভিন্ন ব্যক্তি → Plural Verb	The great scholar and the poet have arrived. The prime minister and the finance minister have signed the agreement. The teacher and the student were both present at the hearing.
And-এর আগে মাত্র একবার "The" থাকলে → একই ব্যক্তি → Singular Verb	The great scholar and poet has arrived. The founder and CEO has resigned from the company. The researcher and author has published a new report on climate change.
যখন দুটো সংখ্যার মধ্যে and বসে এবং সেটা একটি mathematical fact বোঝায়, তখন Singular Verb হয়।	Two and two makes four. Five and five is ten. Ten and ten equals twenty.

2.6 — Fixed Paired Expressions (Always Singular)

These specific idiomatic pairs are treated as a single unified concept.

Expression	Example
bread and butter	Bread and butter is his daily diet.
age and experience	Age and experience is a valuable combination.
time and tide	Time and tide waits for no one.
slow and steady	Slow and steady wins the race.
horse and carriage	Horse and carriage was the common mode of transport.
rice and curry	Rice and curry is a staple meal in this region.

Memory Rule	Noun + s/es = Plural. Verb + s/es = Singular.
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Step 02 — Examples

A number of / A couple of / Several / Many

Basic	A number of problems have emerged since the new policy was introduced.
IELTS	Several factors have contributed to the dramatic rise in global average temperatures over the last century.
X Error	A number of students was absent during the examination period.
✓ Corrected	A number of students were absent during the examination period.

The + Adjective (Referring to a Group)

Basic	The elderly often face significant challenges when accessing digital government services.
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IELTS	The unemployed in many developed nations are supported by comprehensive government welfare programmes.
X Error	The rich is not always happier than those with considerably less wealth.
✓ Corrected	The rich are not always happier than those with less wealth.

Both...and... / The...and the... Exceptions

Basic	The teacher and the student were both present at the disciplinary hearing.
IELTS	Both economic growth and environmental sustainability are central to the government's long-term development agenda.
X Error	The founder and CEO have submitted their resignation following the financial scandal.
✓ Corrected	The founder and CEO has submitted their resignation. [one person, two roles → singular]

STEP 03: Verb Follows the Noun After

এই Step-এ Subject Singular নাকি Plural, তা নির্ভর করে পরবর্তী Noun-এর উপর।

- পরের Noun Singular / Uncountable → Singular Verb
- পরের Noun Plural → Plural Verb

All, any, more, most, some, no
All of, most of, some of, none of
A lot of, lots of, a great deal of, plenty of, a majority of
One third, two thirds, three fourths, one fourth, one fifth

Some words are neither purely singular nor plural on their own. The verb agrees with the noun that follows.

3.1 — All, Any, More, Most, Some, No

Quantifier + Noun	Verb	Reason
All water	is	uncountable
All students	have passed	plural
Any water in that tank	is unsafe	uncountable
Any students who arrive late	will miss	plural
More research	is needed	uncountable
More countries	are adopting	plural
Most information	was outdated	uncountable
Most governments	have failed	plural
Some evidence	suggests	uncountable
Some economists	argue	plural
No data	was collected	uncountable
No countries	were excluded	plural

The same pattern applies with All of, Most of, Some of, None of:

Structure	Example
All of + uncountable	All of the water in the reservoir is contaminated.
All of + plural	All of the students have submitted their assignments.
None of + uncountable	None of the information gathered was considered reliable.

None of + plural	None of the policies have produced measurable results.
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Note on "None of + plural": Both singular and plural verbs are accepted. "None of the students was absent" and "None of the students were absent" are both correct. For IELTS, either is acceptable – be consistent.

3.2 — A lot of, Lots of, A great deal of, Plenty of, A majority of

Structure	Example
A lot of + uncountable	A lot of effort is required.
A lot of + plural	A lot of people are affected.
Lots of + uncountable	Lots of research has been conducted.
Lots of + plural	Lots of countries have adopted this approach.
A great deal of + uncountable	A great deal of research has been published.
A majority of + plural noun	A majority of respondents have expressed support.
The majority of + plural noun	The majority of countries have failed to meet their targets.

Note: "A majority of" and "the majority of" both take plural verbs when followed by a plural noun. When "the majority" is used alone (no of), it takes a singular verb: "The majority is in favour."

3.3 — Fractions

Structure	Example
Fraction + singular/uncountable noun	One third of the land is used for agriculture.
Fraction + plural noun	Two thirds of the population are living below the poverty line.
Fraction + singular noun	Three fourths of the budget was allocated to healthcare.
Fraction + plural noun	One fifth of the workers have lost their jobs.

Step 03 — Examples

All / Some / Most / No

Basic	Most water in developing nations is not properly treated before consumption.
IELTS	Most countries represented in the chart have experienced a significant decline in birth rates since the 1990s.
X Error	All of the evidence suggest that climate change is accelerating at an alarming rate.
✓ Corrected	All of the evidence suggests that climate change is accelerating. [evidence = uncountable]

A lot of / A great deal of / A majority of

Basic	A great deal of effort is required to bring about meaningful social change.
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IELTS	A majority of respondents in the survey have expressed strong support for stricter environmental regulations.
X Error	A lot of research have been published on the long-term effects of social media on mental health.
✓ Corrected	A lot of research has been published on this topic. [research = uncountable]

Fractions

Basic	Two thirds of the students were absent on the first day of the academic year.
IELTS	According to the pie chart, almost one third of the total annual budget was allocated to public transport infrastructure.
X Error	Three fourths of the world's oceans remains entirely unexplored by modern science.
✓ Corrected	Three fourths of the world's oceans remain unexplored. [oceans = plural]

STEP 04: Identifying the True Subject – Subject চেনার কৌশল

Core principle: Prepositions, Prepositional Phrases, Participial Phrases, and Relative Clauses come after the true subject and add extra information – but they never change the verb. The verb always agrees with the first subject.

4.1 – Preposition Interruption

A noun or pronoun following a preposition is never the subject.

Common prepositions: of, in, at, on, with, for, by, to, from, between, among, within, despite, through

Sentence	True Subject	Verb
The quality of the reports is excellent.	the quality	is
The impact of rising temperatures has been severe.	the impact	has been
A list of recommendations was submitted to the board.	a list	was
The number of unemployed workers is increasing annually.	the number	is

4.2 — Prepositional Phrase Interruption

These phrases add information about the subject but do not affect the verb:

along with, and not, but not, together with, as well as, in addition to, accompanied by, including, besides, followed by, led by, guided by, apart from

Sentence	True Subject	Verb
The director, along with the managers, was present.	the director	was
The government, together with several NGOs, has launched a new initiative.	the government	has launched
The president, as well as his advisers, was briefed.	the president	was

The report, in addition to the survey data, suggests a clear upward trend.	the report	suggests
The teacher, and not the students, was responsible for the error.	the teacher	was
The CEO, followed by senior executives, was escorted in.	the CEO	was
The committee, led by the chairperson, has submitted its recommendations.	the committee	has
The policy, including all its amendments, was approved unanimously.	the policy	was
The minister, apart from his colleagues, has opposed the legislation.	the minister	has opposed
The proposal, guided by international standards, is expected to reduce emissions.	the proposal	is

4.3 – Present Participial Phrase (V+ing) Interruption

Sentence	True Subject	Verb
The scientist working on the new vaccine has published promising results.	the scientist	has published
The delegates representing all member countries were asked to submit proposals.	the delegates	were
The data collected from communities living along coastal regions suggests a sharp rise.	the data	suggests
The report highlighting the key environmental concerns was released last Monday.	the report	was

4.4 — Past Participial Phrase (V3) Interruption

Sentence	True Subject	Verb
The minister, accompanied by senior advisers, was present at the summit.	the minister	was
The proposal, supported by extensive research, has been submitted.	the proposal	has been
The village, surrounded by industrial factories, has suffered severe air quality deterioration.	the village	has suffered
The economy, followed by a period of prolonged stagnation, is showing signs of recovery.	the economy	is showing

4.5 — Relative Clause Interruption (who, which, that, where, when, whose)

Sentence	True Subject	Verb
The boy who came yesterday with his friends is my brother.	the boy	is
The policy that was introduced last year has failed to reduce poverty.	the policy	has failed
The countries which adopted early intervention measures were largely successful.	the countries	were
The researcher whose findings were published last month has won a national award.	the researcher	has won

Relative Clause → Participial Phrase reduction: Relative Clause থেকে who is / who was বাদ দিলে যা থাকে – সেটাই Participial Phrase।

Full Relative Clause	Reduced Participial Phrase
The scientist who is working on the vaccine	The scientist working on the vaccine
The minister who was accompanied by advisers	The minister accompanied by advisers

Step 04 – Examples

Preposition & Prepositional Phrase Interruption

Basic	The quality of the students' answers was surprisingly high.
IELTS	The rate of unemployment in developing countries, along with related social challenges, has risen sharply over the past decade.
X Error	The impact of rising temperatures and changing weather patterns are becoming increasingly alarming.
✓ Corrected	The impact of rising temperatures and changing weather patterns is becoming increasingly alarming. [Subject = the impact]

Present Participial Phrase (V+ing) Interruption

Basic	The government, guided by international standards, has approved the new emissions policy.
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IELTS	The data collected from communities living along the coastal regions strongly suggests a sharp and sustained rise in flood frequency.
X Error	The delegates representing all member countries was asked to submit detailed proposals.
✓ Corrected	The delegates representing all member countries were asked to submit detailed proposals.

Past Participial Phrase (V3) Interruption

Basic	The proposal, supported by the research team, was approved by the board unanimously.
IELTS	The policy, accompanied by a series of legislative amendments, has failed to address the root causes of urban inequality.
X Error	The village, surrounded by industrial factories, have suffered severe air quality deterioration.
✓ Corrected	The village, surrounded by industrial factories, has suffered severe air quality deterioration. [Subject = the village]

Relative Clause Interruption

Basic	The student who scored highest in the examination was awarded a full scholarship.
IELTS	The policy that was introduced by the government last year to address rising urban poverty has failed to produce any measurable results.

✗ Error	The countries which adopted early intervention measures was largely successful in containing the spread.
✓ Corrected	The countries which adopted early intervention measures were largely successful in containing the spread.

STEP 05: Or / Nor → Closer Subject Rules

এই structures-এ দুটো Subject থাকে। Verb সবসময় কাছের Subject অনুযায়ী হবে – অর্থাৎ or / nor / but also-এর পরের Subject অনুযায়ী।

Correlative Structure	Rule
Either ... or ...	Verb agrees with the subject after "or"
Neither ... nor ...	Verb agrees with the subject after "nor"
Not only ... but also ...	Verb agrees with the subject after "but also"
Whether ... or ...	Verb agrees with the subject after "or"
Or / Nor (alone)	Verb agrees with the subject after "or/nor"

5.1 — Either ... Or

Sentence	Closer Subject	Verb
Either the boys or Korim is going to school.	Korim = singular	is
Either the manager or the employees are responsible.	employees = plural	are

5.2 — Neither ... Nor

Sentence	Closer Subject	Verb
Neither the boys nor Korim is going to school.	Korim = singular	is
Neither the report nor the findings were conclusive.	findings = plural	were

5.3 — Not only ... But also

Sentence	Closer Subject	Verb
Not only the boys but also Korim is going.	Korim = singular	is
Not only the government but also private organisations are responsible.	organisations = plural	are

5.4 — Whether ... or / Or / Nor (alone)

Sentence	Closer Subject	Verb
Whether the government or private firms are responsible is debatable.	firms = plural	are
Whether the students or the teacher is responsible depends on the circumstances.	teacher = singular	is
The director or the managers are available for consultation.	managers = plural	are
One solution or another is always available.	another = singular	is

Note: "Nor" as sentence connector: Nor + Auxiliary Verb + Subject + Main Verb

Example: The initial policy failed to reduce poverty. Nor did the revised legislation produce any measurable improvement.

Step 05 — Examples

Either ... Or

Basic	Either the teacher or the students are responsible for organising the annual event.
IELTS	Either the government or private investors are expected to cover the projected shortfall in the infrastructure budget.
X Error	Either the manager or the director have the authority to approve this expenditure.
✓ Corrected	Either the manager or the director has the authority to approve this expenditure. [director = singular]

Neither ... Nor

Basic	Neither the teacher nor the students were informed about the sudden change in schedule.
IELTS	Neither the existing legislation nor the proposed amendments are sufficient to address the growing scale of cybercrime.
X Error	Neither the policies nor the implementation were effective in reducing carbon emissions.
✓ Corrected	Neither the policies nor the implementation was effective in reducing carbon emissions. [implementation = singular]

Not only ... But also

Basic	Not only the manager but also the employees are required to attend the compulsory safety training.
IELTS	Not only the government but also private companies are expected to fund the new infrastructure project under the proposed public-private partnership framework.
X Error	Not only poor infrastructure but also a lack of skilled labour are responsible for the region's slow economic growth.
✓ Corrected	Not only poor infrastructure but also a lack of skilled labour is responsible for the region's slow economic growth. [a lack = singular]

Whether ... or / Or / Nor (alone)

Basic	Whether the principal or the teachers are responsible for this decision remains unclear.
IELTS	Whether government intervention or market-driven approaches are more effective in reducing unemployment remains a highly contested question among economists.
X Error	Nor were the revised legislation produce any measurable improvement.
✓ Corrected	Nor did the revised legislation produce any measurable improvement. [Nor + auxiliary + subject + base verb]

STEP 06: Inverted Sentences — There, Here, Negative Adverbs, and More

Inverted sentence-এ verb আগে বসে, subject পরে — কিন্তু verb সবসময় সেই subject অনুযায়ী হবে।

Inversion occurs in:

Category	Words / Phrases
Adverb of Place	There, Here, On the wall, In the room, Across the street, Among
Negative Adverbs	Never, Rarely, Seldom, Scarcely, Hardly, Barely
Negative Phrases	Under no circumstances, By no means, On no account, In no way, Not until, No sooner
Limiting Expressions	Only if, Only when, Only after, Only then, Not only, Nor, Neither

6.1 — There / Here

"There" and "Here" are never the subject. The real subject comes after the verb, and the verb agrees with that subject.

Inverted Sentence	Real Subject	Verb	কারণ
There is a school in our village.	a school	is	singular noun
There are schools in our village.	schools	are	plural noun
There is considerable evidence supporting this claim.	evidence	is	uncountable
Here is the report you requested.	the report	is	singular noun
Here are the results of the survey.	the results	are	plural noun

6.2 — Adverb of Place (Prepositional Phrases)

Structure: Adverb of Place + Verb + Subject

Inverted Sentence	Real Subject	Verb	কারণ
On the wall hangs a painting.	a painting	hangs	singular
In the room were several distinguished researchers.	researchers	were	plural
Across the street stands an old abandoned factory.	an old factory	stands	singular
Among the most significant findings was the sharp decline in biodiversity.	the sharp decline	was	singular

6.3 — Negative Adverb Inversion

Structure: Negative Adverb + Auxiliary Verb + Subject + Main Verb

Inverted Sentence	Real Subject	Verb	কারণ
Never have I seen such beauty.	I	have	singular
Rarely does the government acknowledge the scale of urban poverty.	the government	does	singular
Seldom do developing nations benefit equally from globalisation.	nations	do	plural
Hardly had the policy been implemented when criticism emerged.	the policy	had	singular
Barely had the economy recovered when another crisis emerged.	the economy	had	singular
Scarcely had the delegates arrived when the negotiations collapsed.	the delegates	had	plural

Never has such a drastic decline been recorded in modern history.	such a drastic decline	has	singular
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6.4 – Negative Phrase Inversion

Inverted Sentence	Real Subject	Verb	কারণ
Under no circumstances should governments prioritise short-term gains.	governments	should	plural
By no means is technological advancement a guaranteed solution.	technological advancement	is	singular
Not until public pressure mounted did the government introduce legislation.	the government	did	singular
In no way does the proposed policy address the root causes of poverty.	the proposed policy	does	singular
No sooner had the reform been announced than critics challenged it.	the reform	had	singular
On no account should researchers manipulate data.	researchers	should	plural

Step 06 – Examples

There / Here

Basic	There is a major problem with the current public education system.
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IELTS	There are several compelling reasons why governments across the developing world should invest more heavily in renewable energy infrastructure.
X Error	There is many solutions available to address the issue of urban overcrowding.
✓ Corrected	There are many solutions available to address the issue of urban overcrowding. [solutions = plural]

Adverb of Place

Basic	On the wall hangs a painting donated by the university's founding members.
IELTS	Among the most significant findings of the decade-long study was the sharp and sustained decline in coastal biodiversity.
X Error	In the report were a detailed analysis of the economic impact of the proposed policy changes.
✓ Corrected	In the report was a detailed analysis of the economic impact of the proposed policy changes. [a detailed analysis = singular]

Negative Adverb Inversion

Basic	Never have I encountered such a clear and comprehensive explanation of this complex phenomenon.
IELTS	Rarely does the government acknowledge the full scale of urban poverty until independent research forces the issue into public discourse.

✗ Error	Scarcely was they able to complete the research before the funding was withdrawn.
✓ Corrected	Scarcely were they able to complete the research before the funding was withdrawn. [they = plural]

Negative Phrase Inversion

Basic	Under no circumstances should students attempt to copy answers during an examination.
IELTS	By no means is technological advancement alone a sufficient or guaranteed solution to the complex challenges of climate change.
✗ Error	Not until public pressure became overwhelming did the governments introduces meaningful climate legislation.
✓ Corrected	Not until public pressure became overwhelming did the government introduce meaningful climate legislation. [singular + bare infinitive after did]

MIXED PRACTICE — Task 1: Choose the Correct Verb

Instructions: Circle or underline the correct verb form in brackets.

- The number of people using social media (has / have) increased dramatically over the past decade.
- Both the teacher and the student (was / were) present at the disciplinary hearing.

3. Each of the graphs clearly (shows / show) a consistent downward trend in carbon emissions.
4. A number of problems (has / have) been identified in the current education system.
5. Neither the director nor the managers (was / were) informed about the sudden change in policy.
6. The researcher, along with her two assistants, (was / were) conducting fieldwork in rural areas.
7. There (is / are) several compelling reasons why governments should invest in public transport.
8. Not only the students but also the teacher (was / were) confused by the ambiguous examination question.
9. Half of the water supply in the affected region (is / are) contaminated with industrial pollutants.
10. Two thirds of the respondents (was / were) strongly in favour of the proposed new regulation.
11. Rarely (does / do) developing nations benefit equally from the effects of economic globalisation.
12. The data collected from all three sites clearly (suggests / suggest) a sharp rise in temperatures.
13. A couple of serious issues (has / have) emerged since the implementation of the revised policy.

14. The proposal, supported by extensive research, (has / have) been submitted to the committee.
15. Neither the government's economic plan nor the austerity measures (was / were) sufficient to prevent the financial crisis.
16. Either the government or private investors (is / are) expected to cover the budget shortfall.
17. Nothing in the available evidence (suggest / suggests) that the treatment has any side effects.
18. The village, surrounded by industrial factories, (has / have) suffered severe air quality deterioration.
19. Among the most significant findings (was / were) the sharp decline in coastal biodiversity.
20. A great deal of time and effort (has / have) been invested in developing the new curriculum framework.

Answer Key

Q	Answer	Step
1	has	"The number of" = singular (Step 01)
2	were	"Both...and..." = plural (Step 02)
3	shows	"Each of" = singular (Step 01)
4	have	"A number of" = plural (Step 02)
5	were	Closer subject = "managers" = plural (Step 05)
6	was	"Along with" = prepositional phrase; true subject = "the researcher" (Step 04)
7	are	Real subject = "several reasons" = plural (Step 06)

8	was	Closer subject = "the teacher" = singular (Step 05)
9	is	"Half of the water supply" = uncountable (Step 03)
10	were	"Two thirds of the respondents" = plural (Step 03)
11	do	Inversion: real subject = "nations" = plural (Step 06)
12	suggests	"The data" = singular in academic usage (Step 01)
13	have	"A couple of" = plural (Step 02)
14	has	True subject = "the proposal"; "supported by" = participial phrase (Step 04)
15	were	Closer subject = "the austerity measures" = plural (Step 05)
16	are	Closer subject = "private investors" = plural (Step 05)
17	suggests	"Nothing" = indefinite pronoun = singular (Step 01)
18	has	True subject = "the village"; "surrounded by" = participial phrase (Step 04)
19	was	Inverted; real subject = "the sharp decline" = singular (Step 06)
20	has	"A great deal of" governs verb = singular (Step 03)