

# **An Introductory English Grammar**

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**Name of the Course: Syntax**

**The second lecture : Subject And Verb**

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# Subject and verb

- ❖ **To formulate any grammatical and meaningful sentence, there must be an agreement between subject and verb.**
- ❖ **In this regard, the choice of the verb should related or tied to the subject in terms of number and person.**

# Subject and verb

**For example:**

**The teacher holds class every day.**

**In this sentence, we see that the verb “holds” agrees with the subject in that it is inflected for 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular.**

# **Subject and verb**

**If we change the word teacher to the plural form teachers, we must change the verb to “hold”, as in the following sentence:**

**The teachers hold class every day.**

- ❖ When a noun phrase is in the subject position, it is the headword of the phrase that is tied to the verb and is therefore the subject

Examples:

1. The purposes of the training make me eager to begin.

In the above sentence, the verb “make” agrees with head of the noun phrase the word “purposes”.

1. One among the flock of swans maintains guard.

The verb “maintains” is tied to the word “one”

❖ Thus, we see that subject and verb are tied together by reciprocal changes in form. But there is a difficulty here. Of all the auxiliaries only be, have and do have an inflectional –s ending for the third person singular. The others-can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, ought-have the same form throughout the singular and plural.

# Subject and Verb

❖ Examples:

1. He will go.
2. They will go.

# Subject and Verb

❖ Likewise, the forms of the past tense have no singular-plural change of form that can show a subject-verb tie.

- Examples:
- I sang .     Singular
- We sang.    Plural



# Subject and Verb

- ❖ In the above cases, we can find the agreement between the subject and verb by changing verb or the auxiliary to another form that is capable of agreement.

# Subject and Verb

Examples: to find the subject of

The sopranos in the choir sang well.

Change “sang” to sings and sang.