Agreement is matching the form of one word to another. Singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take plural verbs.

1. **Linking Verbs Agree With Their Subjects, Not Their Subject Complements.**
   In the following example, the linking verb “was” agrees with “testimony,” not the subject complement “contradictory and misleading.”

   *The defendant’s testimony was contradictory and misleading.*

2. **The Verb Agrees With Its Subject Even When the Subject Comes After the Verb.**
   Subjects follow verbs after expletive constructions such as “there is” and “there are.”

   *There is a good chance that the case will end in a mistrial.*
   *There are several options for ensuring that your loan is repaid.*

3. **The Title of a Work or a Word Used as a Word Takes a Singular Verb.**

   *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly is Clint Eastwood’s best film.*
   *“Criteria” is the plural form of “criterion.”*

4. **“That,” “Which,” and “Who,” When Used as Subjects of Relative Clauses, Agree in Number with Their Antecedents; Consequently, Their Verbs Must Also Agree in Number with Their Noun Antecedents.**

   In the following example, “who” refers back to the plural “criminals”; consequently, the verb “are” agrees in number with “criminals.”

   *The criminals who are in shackles are going to get five to ten.*

5. **Money, Distance, and Measurement Subjects Usually Take Singular Verbs.**

   *Twenty thousand dollars is a reasonable fee for a case of this complexity.*

Adapted from: *The New St. Martin’s Handbook*—Lunsford & Connors

*The Legal Writing Handbook*—Oates, Enquist, & Kunsch

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