🩹 IELTS WRITING FIRST AID KIT #2

Subject–Verb Agreement

When the subject and verb don't agree, the examiner notices immediately – even in an otherwise good sentence.

📌 Quick Rule

singular subject	singular verb: *The number of cars **has** risen.*
plural subject	plural verb: *Many students **find** it difficult.*
he / she / it	add **-s** in the Present Simple: *Transport **provides**...*

✅ Before you finish, check:

- ☐ Does every **singular** subject have a singular verb?
- ☐ Does every **plural** subject have a plural verb?
- ☐ Have I added **-s** after he / she / it in the Present Simple?
- ☐ Have I checked long sentences where the subject and verb are far apart?

⚡ Quick Practice

Find and correct the subject–verb agreement mistake in each sentence.

1. The number of people working from home have increased.
2. Many students finds it difficult to manage their time.
3. Public transport in large cities provide an alternative to driving.
4. One of the main problems are the cost of housing.
5. Governments around the world needs to reduce pollution.

🩹 FIRST AID KIT #2 – ANSWERS

Subject–Verb Agreement

✔️ Answers

1. The number of people working from home **has** increased.
   The subject is *the number* – singular.

2. Many students **find** it difficult to manage their time.
   Students is plural.

3. Public transport in large cities **provides** an alternative to driving.
   The subject is *public transport*, not *cities*.

4. One of the main problems **is** the cost of housing.
   The subject is *one* – singular.

5. Governments around the world **need** to reduce pollution.
   The subject is *governments*, not *the world*.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

Find the **subject** of each sentence, then check its verb.

Pay particular attention to longer sentences. The words between the subject and the verb make agreement mistakes surprisingly easy to miss.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full grammar, writing and reading lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

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