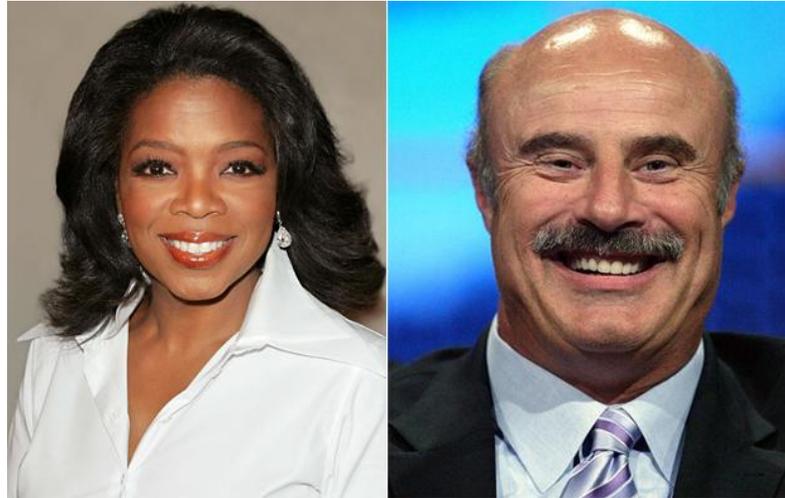


Learning Subject-Verb Agreement with Oprah and Dr. Phil



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Don't mistake a word in a prepositional phrase for the subject of a sentence

- The Object of a preposition is **NEVER** the subject of a sentence.



The islands near the Equator off South American are the Galapagos.

The giant tortoise of the Galapagos Islands weighs more than five hundred pounds.

Singular and Plural

A **singular** subject needs a **singular** verb.

→ Oprah usually drives to work.

A **plural** subject needs a **plural** verb.

→ They usually drive to work.

That is the main idea of
subject and verb agreement!

Many a, Every, Each, Everyone, and Everybody

Pronouns such as these may seem plural, but they are *always* singular!

Everyone on the Dr. Phil show is scared most of the time.

Everybody in Oprah's family enjoys the show.

Each of Oprah's fan clubs *hopes* to attract more members.

Many a cook and waiter works late for Oprah.

Either + or and Neither + nor

(Correlative Conjunctions)

If *either* is used with *or*, the verb depends on the subject *closest to the verb*; this is also true if *neither* is used with *nor*.

Either Oprah *or* the students are responsible.

Either the students *or* Oprah is responsible.

Neither the picture *nor* these books are very interesting.

Neither the books *nor* the picture is very interesting.

Either and Neither

When *either* is used **alone** it is *always* singular, even if the noun is plural; this is also true when *neither* is used alone.

Neither of these books is very interesting.

I don't mind red text or blue text. **Either** is fine with me.

Compound Subjects joined by And

- A compound subject joined by *and* or *both...and* is plural unless its parts belong to one unit:

Oprah and Dr. Phil were reading in different parts of the bookstore.

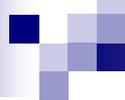
Macaroni and cheese is a favorite late-night snack for Oprah.

Collective Nouns!!

- A collective noun names a group. Consider them singular when it refers to a group as whole. Consider it plural when it refers to each member of a group individually

Collective Nouns examples...

- The orchestra plays. (Singular)
- The orchestra tune their instruments. (Plural)
- The family loves to travel. (Singular)
- My family take turns choosing places to visit.
(Plural)



Homework....

- **Writer's Choice Textbook:**
 - Read pp. 563-571
 - Do Exercises 5, 7, 9, 11