

COORDINATED SUBJECTS

COORDINATED SUBJECT OR COMPOUND SUBJECT

A subject with two equal parts joined by AND or OR/NOR.

- *Hiking and camping is my past time.*



VERSUS

- *Hiking and camping are two popular activities here.*



AND

If the word **AND** connects two singular or plural nouns, use a **plural verb form**.

- *The table and the chair need to be repainted.*
- *The bicycle and skateboard were found in the park.*
- *The windows and the doors are old.*

If the word **AND** connects nouns that function as one unit/entity, use a **singular verb form**.

- *Hamburgers and fries is my favourite meal.*



VERSUS

- *Hamburgers and fries are my favourite snacks.*



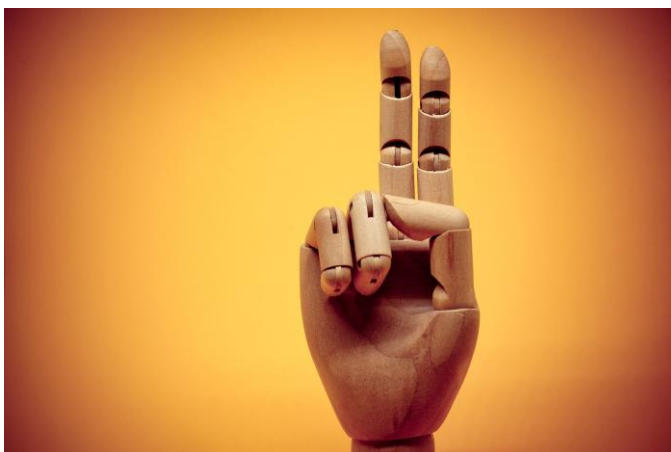
OR/NOR

If the word **OR/NOR** connects two singular nouns, **use singular verb form.**

- **Either** *the student* **or** *the teacher* **is** attending the activity.
- **Either** *a hat* **or** *a headscarf* **protects** the head from the sun.
- **Neither** *the teacher* **nor** *principal* **is** in the school.
- **Neither** *the open window* **nor** *the open door* **cools** the house.

If the word **OR** or **/NOR** connects two plural nouns, use a plural verb form.

- **Either** *the students* **or** *the teachers* **are** attending the activity.
- **Either** *hats* **or** *headscarves* **protect** the head from the sun.
- **Neither** *the teachers* **nor** *the principals* **are** in the school.
- **Neither** *the open windows* **nor** *the open doors* **cool** the house.



If the word **OR** or **NOR** connects a singular noun and a plural noun, use the appropriate verb form to agree with the closest noun.

- **Either** *the students* **or** *the teacher* **is** attending the activity.
- **Either** *the student* **or** *the teachers* **are** attending the activity.
- **Either** *the hats* **or** *the headscarf* **protects** the head from the sun.
- **Either** *the hat* **or** *the headscarves* **protect** the head from the sun.
- **Neither** *the teachers* **nor** *the principal* **is** in the school.
- **Neither** *the teacher* **nor** *the principals* **are** in the school.
- **Neither** *the open windows* **nor** *the open door* **cools** the house.
- **Neither** *the open window* **nor** *the open doors* **cool** the house.

REFERENCES

Ackles, N. M. (2003). *The Grammar Guide* (pp. 78-85). The University of Michigan Press. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.8862>

Quitman Troyka, L., & Hesse, D. (2006). *Handbook for Writers* (4th ed., p. 239). The University of Michigan Press.

**Contact us**

WRITING CENTRE

Science Building Room 2053

T: 709-864-3168

E: writing@mun.cawww.mun.ca/writingcentre/