

1 Here's the Idea

▶ **A verb must agree with its subject in person and number.**

Cindy Brown is famous for scoring 974 points in the 1986–1987 NCAA women's Division I season.

Wanda Ford's 534 **rebounds were** the most ever collected in a single season.

Agreement in Person and Number

▶ **Singular subjects take singular verbs; plural subjects take plural verbs.**

The form of a verb also depends on the person of its subject.

Forms of Verbs		
	Singular	Plural
First person	I excel	we excel
Second person	you excel	you excel
Third person	he/she/it/Cindy excels	they/Cindy and Wanda excel

In the present tense of all verbs except *be*, the third-person singular form is the only form that differs from the base form. Add -s to create that form.

Even this rule has exceptions. You can remember them by thinking OY! To create the third-person singular form of

- a verb ending in **o**, add -es (do → does)
- a verb ending in **y**, change the *y* to *i* and add -es (try → tries)

For more information about spelling rules, see p. 640.

The forms of *be* are a special case.

Forms of <i>Be</i>				
	Present		Past	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
First person	I am	we are	I was	we were
Second person	you are	you are	you were	you were
Third person	he/she/it is	they are	he/she/it was	they were

Don't get confused! **Nouns** that end in s are usually plural. **Verbs** that end in s are usually singular.

For more information about singular and plural forms of nouns, see p. 6.

Words That Separate Subjects and Verbs

When the subject and verb in a sentence are separated by other words, mentally screen out those words and make the verb agree with the subject.

The individual scoring **title for 1967–1968, as well as those for 1968–1969 and 1969–1970, **was won** by Pete Maravich.**