

1 Here's the Idea

► When used as subjects, some indefinite pronouns are always singular and some are always plural. Others can be either singular or plural, depending on how they're used.

Indefinite Pronouns

Always Singular

each	everyone	nobody	anything
either	everybody	nothing	someone
neither	everything	anyone	somebody
one	no one	anybody	something
another	much		

One of the Nobel Prize winners for chemistry, Richard Kuhn, **was told** by his government to refuse the award.

Always Plural

several	few	both	many
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Many of the Nobelists in medicine since 1970 **have been** from the United States.

Singular or Plural

some	all	most	none
any	more		

Most of the Nobel Prizes for literature **have been awarded** to men.

Most of the money for the Nobel Prizes **comes** from interest on a fund established by the will of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist and engineer.

Most refers to a number of individuals, so the verb, *have been awarded*, is plural.

Most refers to an amount, so the verb, *comes*, is singular.

Don't be confused by nonessential phrases that come between indefinite-pronoun subjects and verbs. Subjects are never found in these phrases. Remember to mentally screen out these words and then make the verbs agree with the subjects.

Nobody, ~~not even Nobel laureates in literature~~, **is** perfect.

Most of us, ~~even textbook editors~~, **make** usage errors once in a while.