VERB AGREEMENT

1. Use a plural verb when the subject of a sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by “and”

   Example:
   She and her friends are at the mall

2. Use a singular verb when two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by “or” or “nor”.

   Example:
   The book or the binder is in the drawer

3. *Doesn’t* is a contraction of ‘does not’ and should be used only with a singular subject.
   *Don’t* is a contraction of ‘do not’ and should be used only with a plural subject.
   The exception to this rule appears cases of first person and second person pronouns ‘I’ and ‘you’. With these pronouns, the contraction don’t should be used.

   Example:
   She doesn’t like pizza.
   They don’t like pizza.

4. Nouns with only one part require singular verbs. (E.g. civics, mathematics, dollars, measles, and news.)

   Example:
   The car is in the driveway

5. Nouns with two parts require plural verbs. (E.g. tweezers, scissors, pants, shears.)

   Example:
   The tweezers are dull

6. Expressions such as *with, together with, including, accompanied by, in addition to, or as well* do not change the (number singularize or pluralize/grammatical number) of the subject. If the subject is singular, the verb is as well.

   Example:
   The teacher, accompanied by his son, is travelling to Florida.
   All of the toys, including yours, are in the toy chest.
Resources:

Handouts by Nicole McDermott