

ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia refers to words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or the actions they refer to. When we say an onomatopoeic word, the utterance itself reminds us of the sound to which the word refers.

Examples

- I could hear the **pitter-patter** of raindrops on the leaves.
- Are you afraid of things that go **bump** in the night?
- When the wind blew, the leaves **rustled**.
- The horse's hooves **clip-clopped** on the cobblestones.
- The cabinet opened with a distinct **CREAK**.
- The new pencil sharpener **hummed** efficiently.
- The musician used a coin to **strum** the guitar.
- Time just keeps on **ticking**.
- Virat loved the **swish** of the basketball net.
- The racing car **zoomed** past the finish line.
- Birds started to **tweet** long before Twitter did.



ALLITERATION

Alliteration is a literary device in which the initial consonant sounds of words are repeated in close succession. It is important to remember that alliteration is about the sounds of words, not the letters. Therefore, the letters **k** and **c** can be used alliteratively (as in **k**itchen and **c**at), as well as the letters **s** and **c** (as in **s**tyle and **c**ycle). Also, the words do not need to be directly next to each other in the sentence or the stanza to be considered alliterative, although they often are.

Examples:

- The **b**eautiful **b**ouquet **b**lossomed in the **b**right sun.
- C**arl collected **c**ola **c**ans **c**ounting **c**ontinuously.
- Erica **c**ooked **c**upcakes in the **k**itchen.
- D**avid felt **d**reary and **d**ismal in the **d**arkness of the night.
- The **h**ummingbirds **h**overed in **h**eavenly **h**armony.
- All of the **m**illionaire's **m**oney only **m**ade **m**e **m**ore **m**elancholy.
- The **p**arrot **p**erched upon the **p**irate's **p**ea jacket.
- The **r**ed **r**oses were **w**rapped in **r**ibbons.
- S**heena **s**houted and **s**hooed the **s**heep to the **s**helter.
- The **w**ind **w**as **w**histling through the **w**eeping **w**illows.

The Grammar Connect



A SINGLE WORD FOR A GROUP OF WORDS

SINGLE WORD	GROUP OF WORDS
agenda	items of business to be considered at a meeting
amateur	one who does something for pleasure
anonymous	that which is of unknown authorship
bilingual	one who speaks two languages
contemporary	living at the same time as another
credulous	one who easily believes
diplomacy	the art practised by statesmen
emigrant	one who leaves one's country to settle elsewhere
hospitable	one fond of entertaining guests
illegible	that which can't be read
immigrant	one who has come to live permanently in a country that is not one's own
indispensable	without which one can't do
infallible	that which never fails
irrevocable	that which can't be changed
maiden speech	the first public speech
materialistic	that measures things in terms of matter
obsolete	that which is no longer in use
orator	one who makes an eloquent speech
omniscient	one who knows everything
omnipotent	one who is all-powerful
omnipresent	one who is present everywhere
pedestrian	one who walks on foot
panacea	a remedy for all diseases/problems
philanthropist	one who does good to mankind
prodigal	one who wastes money
recluse	one who lives alone and likes to avoid other people
reticent	reserved in speech
soliloquy	speaking aloud when alone
somnambulist	one who walks in sleep
teetotaler	one who never drinks alcohol
unanimous	all having the same opinion

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Rules	Examples
A finite verb must agree with its subject in number and in person.	The boy is fishing . The boys are fishing . } (Subject and Verb agree in number.) I am a student. He is an engineer. You are a technician. } (Subject and Verb agree in person.)
When the subject and its verb are separated by a long phrase, or even a clause, we must ensure that the verb agrees with its actual subject and not the noun or the pronoun placed close to it.	The strong bond of affection between the friends was obvious.
When a sentence begins with there , the verb agrees with the real subject that follows there .	There were five books on the shelf. (were agrees with the subject books)
If the subject consists of two or more singular nouns or pronouns joined with and , it takes a plural verb.	She and I were given the responsibility of organising the farewell party.
When two singular nouns refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular.	The District Magistrate or The Collector is on leave today. (Both refer to the same person.)
When two nouns convey the same meaning and are placed together only for emphasis, the verb must be singular.	The honour and glory of my country is most important for me.
When two nouns express a single idea, it takes a singular verb.	Slow and steady wins the race.
When the subject consists of two nouns or pronouns joined with as well as or with , the verb agrees with the first subject.	Kunal as well as his friends was invited to the party. The captain with other members of the team was given a hearty welcome.
When two subjects are joined with not only ... but also , the verb agrees with the latter subject.	Not only Kavita but also Nidhi wants to visit Grandma.
When two subjects are joined with either ... or , neither ... nor , the verb agrees with the latter subject. When two subjects joined with either ... or , neither ... nor are of different numbers, the verb agrees in number with the subject that is closest to it.	Either you or Leena is responsible for this mistake. Neither Leena nor you are responsible for this mistake. Either she or her parents are going to attend the wedding. Neither Amar nor his friends have seen that film.
Each , neither , either , everyone and one of the take a singular verb.	Each of the houses has a balcony. Neither of the girls was trained. Either of them is fine. Everyone was welcome. One of the girls plays the violin brilliantly.
Nouns qualified by each/every and joined by and , take a singular verb.	Each day and each night was full of anxiety. Every boy and every girl is required to learn a foreign language.
None refers to amount or quantity and takes a singular verb.	None of the work was done.
Much , more , little and less take a singular verb.	Much of the milk was wasted. More than half the cake has been eaten. Little has been achieved so far. Less of my time is now wasted in idle gossip.
Many a takes a singular verb.	Many a cheer was heard.
When a lot of , a great deal of and plenty of refer to amount or quantity, they take a singular verb.	A great deal of time was spent on researching on the Internet. A lot of food was distributed among the flood victims. Plenty of help was available.
When a lot of , a great deal of and plenty of refer to number, they take a plural verb.	A lot of people are taking part in the movement. Plenty of trees have been planted along the roads.
The majority of refers only to number and takes a plural verb.	It being Sunday, the majority of shops are closed.
Names of some branches of learning, like Mathematics , Economics , Physics and Politics , take a singular verb.	Mathematics is a challenging subject. Politics is not a compulsory curriculum subject.
Names of some diseases , sports , etc., take a singular verb.	Measles is easily prevented today. Gymnastics is easy for Sarah.
When a plural noun is the name of a book or a country, it takes a singular verb.	Anne of Green Gables was my favourite book as a child. The United States of America is an industrially advanced country.
Nouns which are singular in form but plural in meaning, like cattle and people , take a plural verb.	The cattle are grazing in the field. The people of this town are very hospitable.
Nouns like food , furniture , cutlery , crockery and stationery , take a singular verb.	Food was good and affordable. The furniture is bought from a shop in London.
A pair of when applied to things like scissors , spectacles , shoes , trousers , etc., take a singular verb. However, if we omit a pair of and merely use the plural word, it takes a plural verb.	A pair of cotton trousers is in the cupboard. This pair of scissors is meant to cut only paper. Those trousers are made of cotton. These scissors are dull.
Nouns denoting weights, measures, amount, time and distance, take a singular verb.	Sixty days is not enough time to complete the project. Ten kilometres is a long distance to cover on foot. Three-fourths of the work has been completed.
Collective noun+of+plural noun takes a singular verb.	A bunch of keys is lying on the table.
Collective noun, considered as a whole, takes a singular verb.	The committee was unanimous in its opinion.
Collective noun when we think of its members individually, takes a plural verb.	The committee were divided in their opinion.
The name of a state, a country or an institution denotes a team, and hence takes a plural verb.	India have defeated Pakistan by six wickets.
A relative pronoun as subject takes a singular verb when the antecedent is singular, but it takes a plural verb when the antecedent is plural.	I am the person who has helped you. This is one of the best books that are available on the subject.