

CLASS IX & X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART II
LESSON 16
CONCORD

NOTES

1. In the construction of English sentences, there are certain rules which bind the different components of the sentences. There is agreement between the different components of the sentences.

The agreement between two or more parts of the sentence in person, number, gender and tense is called Concord.

Example:

- i. Reena loves her mother.
- ii. When I went to Joseph's house, he had already left for Delhi.

Note: In the first sentence, 'Reena' and 'her' agree in person, number and gender.

In the second sentence also, 'Joseph' and 'he' agree in person, number and gender. Also, the tense of the Subordinate Clause and the Principal Clause has agreement. Both the clauses are in the past tense. This is called **Concord in Tense**.

These agreements are generally referred to as:

- i. Concord of Person
- ii. Concord of Number
- iii. Concord of Gender
- iv. Concord of Tense.

2. In certain cases, agreement is according to the idea or notion expressed.

Example: The Parliament have been divided on the Bill.



In the above sentence, the agreement between the subject and the verb is notional. Although the subject is singular in form, the notion suggests it to be plural. Such agreement is called 'Notional Concord'. It happens mostly in case of Collective Nouns.

3. Expressions of time, money and distance usually take a singular verb.

Examples:

- **(i)** Fifty years is a long time.
- Ten miles is a short distance today. (ii)
- 4. The indefinite pronouns everybody, every one, nobody, no one, anybody, any one etc. take a verbal predicate in the singular but may be referred to by a personal, reflexive or possessive pronoun in the plural.

Example: Everybody was running as fast as they could.

5. Concord is also divided into two types: Bilateral and Unilateral.

Example: I am a girl.

For the verb 'to be', 'am' is used only with 'I'. 'I' is used with 'am' only. This is a case of Bilateral Concord. Other cases may be referred to as Unilateral. This is only a theoretical study.

6. Principle of Proximity: It denotes agreement of the verb with whatever noun or pronoun which closely precedes it, sometimes in preference to agreement with the headword of the subject.

Example: One in ten takes drugs.