Grammar Explanation

Subject-Verb Agreement: Sentences with *there is/there are*

- When there is a long noun phrase, identify the base noun and make sure it agrees with the verb. Remember that noun phrases that begin with *one of* take a singular verb.
  - Example: *The failure of the government to pass fair labor laws has allowed businesses to exploit workers.*
  - Example: *One of the challenges faced by government officials is preventing further terrorist attacks.*

- When a sentence begins with the structure *there + BE*, the verb BE agrees with the noun that follows it.
  - Example: *There was no response from the union regarding salary increases.*
  - Example: *There are many questions that need to be looked into regarding the September 11 attacks.*

- When two subjects are connected with *either ... or*, or *neither ... nor*, the verb agrees with the subject that is nearest to it.
  - Example: *Neither the government nor the unions protect workers’ rights.*
  - Example: *Neither the unions nor the government protects workers’ rights.*

- When the subject of a sentence is a gerund (*verb + ing*), the verb that follows is singular.
  - Example: *Lobbying is one of the techniques used by corporations to influence policies and labor laws.*

Excerpted from: Subject-Verb Agreement: Exercise 4