

Singular and plural: miscellaneous points

Certain singular nouns which are uncountable in English are countable in many other languages. Examples are: *hair, baggage, furniture, advice* etc.

Her hair is very thick. (NOT Her hair are very thick.)

My baggage has been stolen. (NOT My baggages have been stolen.)

Co-ordinated subjects

When two singular subjects are joined by *and*, the verb is normally plural.

Alice and Peter are going to get married.

But note that some phrases with *and* are treated like single ideas.

'Romeo and Juliet' is my favorite play. (NOT Romeo and Juliet are my favorite play.)

Two subjects connected by *as well as*, *together with* or a similar expression are followed by a singular verb if the first subject is singular.

The manager, as well as his colleagues, believes in a tough financial policy.

When two subjects are joined by *or*, the verb is usually singular if the second subject is singular, and plural if it is plural.

Grapes or a melon is suitable.

A melon or grapes are suitable.

When two singular subjects are joined by *neither...nor*, the verb is singular in a plural style, but is usually plural in an informal style.

Neither Mary nor her brother has arrived. (Formal)

Neither Mary nor her brother have arrived. (Informal)