Guide to Subject-Verb Agreements

1.) **THE DOGS WALKS.**

You might notice that, when you read a sentence like this, it feels clunky. Both subject and verb in this case cannot be plural, and so: if there is a dog, then it walks. If there are dogs, then they walk.

2.) **THE FLOODS IN ELICOTT CITY WAS OVERWHELMING.**

Here, the subject and verb must agree due to the past nature of the subject (the floods).

3.) **UNDERSTANDING YOUR PRODUCTS ARE THE BEST WAY TO DO BUSINESS.**

In this instance, the verb "understanding" acts as a concept with the whole subject being "understanding your products." So, as a conceptual idea, the verb "is" should agree with the first word and disagree with the last part of the subject.

4.) **ALLEN SAY THAT THE BOOK WISE MAN’S FEAR IS WELL-WRITTEN.**

Allen is saying this in the present, and so the verb "says" must appear plural.

Many of these mistakes are made as an oversight — you might be typing too fast or it might sound right in your head only to read clumsily and stilted. It is best to be mindful and stay vigilant. Check out the ARC worksheet on Subject-Verb Agreements for active practice.