

Ex: The **girl** in the glass slippers **needs** to leave by midnight.

2) COMPOUND SUBJECTS CAN BE TRICKY.

A) Two or more singular subjects joined by "and" form a plural subject (the equivalent of "they"), so there is no -s on the verb. . .

Ex: **Cinderella and the prince expect** to live happily ever after.

B) . . . *unless* the two singular subjects refer to the same person or thing:

Ex: **The stepmother and chief villain** of the piece **tries** to prevent Cinderella from trying on the shoe.

"Stepmother and chief villain" are one and the same subject: SHE tries

C) If two or more subjects are joined by "or" or "nor," the form of the verb is determined by the subject closest to it.

Ex: Neither the **stepmother nor her daughters fit** into the glass slipper.  
Closest subject is plural "daughters," so verb has no -s on the end.

3) MOST INDEFINITE PRONOUNS (*anybody, anyone, each, everybody, everyone, somebody, someone, nobody, one*) ARE 3<sup>rd</sup> PERSON SINGULAR WORDS, so their present-tense verbs need to end in -s.

Ex: **Everybody loves** a happy ending.

4) THE VERB TO BE HAS ITS OWN SPECIAL PATTERNS.

It is the only verb that uses different forms in both the present and past tense, and that changes its form in other ways besides simply adding or subtracting an -s.

*In the PRESENT tense*

*In the PAST tense*

<u>subject</u>	<u>verb</u>
I . . . . .	am
You . . . . .	are
he, she, it or single noun . . .	is
we . . . . .	are
they or plural noun . . . . .	are

<u>subject</u>	<u>verb</u>
I . . . . .	was
you . . . . .	were
he, she, it, or single noun . . .	was
we . . . . .	were
they or plural noun . . . . .	were

Ex: **I am** sure that **you are** getting sick of hearing about Cinderella, but her **story was** my favorite when **I was** a little girl and my **sisters were** mean to me.

5) SOME AUXILIARY VERBS (such as *have, do*, and any form of *to be*) MUST CHANGE TO AGREE WITH THEIR SUBJECTS. (Use **has** and **does** for 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular subjects; **have** and **do** for all other subjects.) BUT "MODAL" AUXILIARIES (*can, could, may, might, will, would, should*) HAVE ONLY ONE FORM, no matter what the subject is.

Ex: Walt Disney did not invent Cinderella. Some **version** of her story **can** be found in many different cultural traditions. Although her **mother has** always died and been replaced by a wicked stepmother, **Cinderella does** not have a fairy godmother in most versions. **She might** be helped by a fish, or by a kindly male magician, or by praying to the bones of her dead mother. And not all the **endings are** equally happy. Some **versions will** place her in a less-than-ideal marriage, and **others can** be quite violent.