

Subject-verb agreement exercise

When the subjects connected by or or nor are of different numbers, the plural subject should be written last and it should be followed by a plural verb.

Neither the manager nor his assistants were present at the meeting.

When the subjects connected by or or nor are of different persons, the verb should agree in person with the subject nearest to it. The subjects should be arranged in the proper order – second person, first; third person, second; first person, last

Neither you nor I am responsible for this.

Complete the following sentences using a verb form that agrees with the subject in number and person.

1. Neither the Principal nor the Lecturers
..... present at the meeting.

was

were

2. Either Mehta or his parents
responsible for this.

is

are

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3. Neither Mehta nor his parents responsible for this.

is

are

4. Neither the Chief Minister nor his colleagues given any explanation for this.

has

have

5. Neither he nor I money to spare for this.

has

have

6. Neither you nor Ram to be

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capable of doing this.

seem

seems

7. Either you or Gopal to take the lead in this matter.

has

have

Answers

1. Neither the Principal nor the Lecturers were present at the meeting.
2. Either Mehta or his parents are responsible for this.
3. Neither Mehta nor his parents are responsible for this.
4. Neither the Chief Minister nor his colleagues have given any explanation for this.
5. Neither he nor I have money to spare for this.
6. Neither you nor Ram seems to be capable of doing this.

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7. Either you or Gopal has to take the lead in this matter.