

Sample lesson plan for *Grammar for IELTS* Unit 7

Student preparation for this class: Have learners study the first part, the grammar, before the class and make notes on anything they need clarifying in class. (20–30 mins)

Teacher preparation: none

Practice exercises (45 mins)

FOCUS

These exercises train learners to apply subject + verb agreement (including the specific cases of *both/either/neither*, *each/every/all* and quantifying expressions) in an appropriate way in spoken and written English.

Direct attention to the Exam tip near the top of page 31. This applies to all the exercises in this unit (and reinforces what they have done in Unit 6, if they have completed that unit).

Exercise 1

This is a straightforward choice between singular and plural. Challenge learners to get all six sentences correct, without referring back to the information in the Grammar section. Then ask them to review the rules.

Typical mistakes: Long noun phrases, such as: *'The frequency of storms on the west coast of South America'* are a feature of academic writing and can be very confusing for students. If this is the case, highlight this particular noun phrase (as subject) and elicit the fact that the verb needs to agree with *frequency* rather than *storms*. Then get learners to identify the two other long noun phrases in the exercise (items 3 and 5). Ask them to try and notice other long noun phrases as subjects (more than four words) as they complete the rest of the unit. It is helpful if they can identify the controlling noun that determines the agreement.

Exercise 2

This is a straightforward exercise, but it forces learners to think carefully about agreement. See if learners notice that items 1 and 4 both begin with noun phrases of more than four words.

Exercise 3

This exercise builds on Exercise 2 and encourages learners to edit their work. Have them do the exercise individually and check answers in pairs. Remind them that if a noun phrase starts: *The number/amount/quantity of ...* the verb that follows will be 3rd person singular, even if there are plural nouns within the noun phrase. (One long noun phrase as subject: *'the number of birds and insects'*)

Exercise 4

This exercise requires careful reading of the text, as well as an understanding of subject verb agreement, to complete the four sentences correctly. The processes involved will help learners understand and remember the points they have been studying. (One long noun phrase as subject: *'Neither Professor Jenkins nor Dr Brody'*)

EXTENSION ACTIVITY (25 MINS)

For additional practice in focusing on subject/verb agreement, have learners write five sentences about the environment to show understanding of all the points in Part 1 (including quantifying expressions). Then organize them in small groups to discuss the environment. Encourage learners to use their sentences in an appropriate way during the discussion rather than just reading them out.

Exam practice (30 mins)

This can be assigned for homework. Remind learners to look again at the Tip boxes before completing the Exam practice section.

If you have time in the next class, have learners work in groups to evaluate the impact of what they learned in Unit 7 on their understanding of the text in the Exam practice section. If necessary, prompt them to think about how their understanding of reference within a text helps overall understanding.