General Rule

A verb and the subject it refers back to should agree in number. This means that both should be singular or plural. For example:

subject verb

The effects of sucralose, saccharin, and aspartame were analyzed in this study (Dalton & Fool, 2010).

In this example, the plural verb "were analyzed" matches the plural subject "effects."

Verbs vs. Nouns

It's important to note that making verbs plural follows a different pattern than nouns. We usually add an "s" to make a noun plural; however, verbs are different. For example:

subject verb

Artificial sweeteners increase insulin resistance in already overweight women (Dalton & Fool, 2010).

In this example, "increase" is a plural verb and does not have an "s." In fact, to make "increase" singular, we would add an "s."

	Subject	Verb
Singular	sweetener	increases
Plural	sweeteners	increase

Special Circumstances

- Indefinite pronouns like *anyone, everyone, someone, no one,* and *nobody* are always singular.

  No one has considered the effects of artificial sweeteners on reproductive health (Paulson, 2015).

- In compound subjects, if one subject is singular and one is plural, the verb agrees with the subject closer to it.

  Neither Paulson nor other researchers have done in utero studies.

- Even though they may contain more than one person, group nouns like *company* and *family* are singular since they are a single "unit."

  The company focuses on food additives and chemicals (Dalton & Fool, 2010).