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I found the following two sentences used as examples in the OALD. 1. Three and three make six.2. Three and three is six.Why is there singular - plural verb difference for the same subject? In #1, 'three and three' is considered as two entities or two distinct 'things'. It is these two things that make/add up to six.In #2, you could read it as 'the (singular) sum of 'three and three' is six. Thank you! But, still I am not sure about when to use a singular verb and when, a plural one. still I am not sure about when to use a singular verb and when, a plural one. If you're referring to this example specifically, it's an exception, if you will. In most cases only the singular verb applies if you're referring to a single thing and the plural verb for multiple things. This is addition. These are correct for addition:- Three plus three equals six.- Three plus three is six. In casual speech, people sometimes say "and" instead of "plus" for addition. But the grammar still uses "is".Outside of addition, "three and three" does not make much sense. Would you say "You and you" or "the dog and the dog"? You need to explain your meaning. In general 2 different things are connected with "and" and use "are".- Three and four are numbers. This is addition. These are correct for addition:- Three plus three equals six.- Three plus three is six. In casual speech, people sometimes say "and" instead of "plus" for addition. But the grammar still uses "is".Outside of addition, "three and three" does not make much sense. Would you say "You and you" or "the dog and the dog"? You need to explain your meaning. In general 2 different things are connected with "and" and use "are".:- Three and four are numbers. The sentences I have cited in my first post, are found in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. (I have mentioned it in the post also.) The sentences I have cited in my first post, are found in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. (I have mentioned it in the post also.) Yes, I know. These sentences are addition. They are not standard English grammar. If using the verb "make", I would go for the singular, for the same reason as why we use "is" instead of "are": Three and three makes six.It doesn't sound any different when the result starts with an 's' (like six or seven), but try it with "two and two \_\_\_\_ four". I think that in is arithmetic the singular and plural forms are both possible/used/accepted in common usage. I doubt anyone would correct you whichever one you use. This is not a problem of whether someone will find fault with or correct me when I use this sentence. The problem is that it is asked in examinations. So, we have to teach it clearly to the learners. That is why, I posted these sentences to get my doubts cleared. Dear native speakers may clarify this. Hi, Im almost positive it should be the former: an hours drivebut wanted to get some feedback.Or does anyone know a good English grammar site that explains these kind of things? Cheers, Elise HI, Im almost positive it should be the former: an hours drivebut wanted to get some feedback.Or does anyone know a good English grammar site that explains these kind of things? Cheers, Elise HI Elise, An hour's drive. I suggest you do a google search on 'English Genitive Case'. LRV Many thanks for your quick reply and the link! Elise From time to time I run into the same construction but it lacks 's!s it a colloquial thing or a mistake? For example a two-hours' drive = a two-hour drive (colloquial or mistake?)a three-minutes' talk = a three-minute talka four weeks'-work = a four week-work With the possessive, you don't use the article. Both forms are correct:it was two hours' drive from here.It was a two-hour drive from here. It was three minutes' walk away.It was a three-minute walk away.We had four weeks' holiday. (It could be four weeks together, or four weeks annually. We had a four-week holiday. (All four weeks together.) A couple of things: I don't know what "a four week-work" or "a four-week work" might be, but here are some alternatives:It was a four-week assignment.( I wouldn't say "four weeks' assignment")We had four weeks' work ahead of us. ( I wouldn't say "a four-week work") From time to time I run into the same construction but it lacks 's!s it a colloquial thing or a mistake? For example two-hours' drive = a two-hour drive (colloquial or mistake?)a three-minutes' talk = a three-minute talk a four weeks'-work = a four week-work Neither sounds idiomatic to me, because we don't say "a work" in this context. Hello everybody.I have some problems when I want to say that something needs to be increased/decreased several times. I don't want to use "six,seven-fold" or something like that. I know that we can say it using "one, two, three, four ..... times". But the problem is that I don't know how to say it correctly if I, for example, want to say "The incomes in the country decreased by eight times" or "You have to increase the capacity of that device by four times". And hence I have one more question: what we have when saying "by X times"? What would be the difference if we said that without "by", just "increased/decreased X times"?Thank you. Unfortunately English is ambiguous in this respect. People argue about it. Everyone thinks it's obvious that "four times bigger" means X and 'four times as big' means Y, but they disagree about X and Y. If the budget was 1000 and it increased (by) eight times, or by a factor of eight, or by eight, is it now 8000 or 9000? We have previous threads about this, though I'm not sure how you would find them. Thank you. But is what I suggested correct? I mean my two sentences. "Decreased by 8 times" doesn't mean anything to me at all. "Decreased to an eighth of its former size or amount" is precise, and perhaps that's what some muddle-headed innumerate meant by "decreased by 8 times," but I don't know, and I wouldn't trust the writer's arithmetic. Sometimes I read "decreased by" over 100%, which would produce a negative number as far as I can understand, but sometimes that's impossible.I think the best thing to do in these cases is to provide both numbers and let the reader draw his own conclusion about the relationship between them. Just say, "increased from 6 to 48" or "decreased from 48 to 6" and either leave it at that or, if you must give a proportion, add it. "From 1950 to 2000, the country's gross national product increased eight times, from 6 billion flinds\* to 48 billion flinds." \*The war years were an economic disaster. The gross national product fell from its prewar level of 48 billion flinds to 6 billion flinds. "The country's unit of currency is the flind of 100 urthals. Thank you too. But there's still a problem. What if I need to say: "You have to increase the capacity of that device by four times"? Or is it better to say that sentence using "fourfold"? I don't think "fourfold" is used much currently in AE; I don't know about BE. I've seen x-fold in older written material, but I especially wouldn't expect to see it in technical material. If you are dealing with engineers, "by four times" ought to mean "4" and you should be all right. If you are not, and the people you are speaking to might think "by four times" means to add an amount that is 4 the base amount (making the new total five times the base), then you had better say "to four times its current level" and give the numbers. Example: "Increase the capacity of the pump from 400 cc/min to 1600 cc/min."That's probably what the engineers would want anyway. Be specific and let them do their own math. Do you have any preference between these two?I've bought three of the same cabbage.I've bought three heads of the same cabbage. I'm afraid they both sound a little odd to me.I would say, "I've bought three cabbages of the same type." This AE speaker is talking about buying "three of the same pineapple" I assume they mean three of the same type of cabbage/pineapple. It doesn't make sense otherwise. If you bought three identical books, wouldn't you say this? I've bought three of the same book. I could see saying "I've bought three heads of the same kind of cabbage" if there were multiple varieties on sale. If you bought three identical books, wouldn't you say this?I've bought three of the same book. Yes, but you don't eat a book. That's what makes it sound odd: it's what you do with it. If you bought three identical books, wouldn't you say this?I've bought three of the same book. Probably not. I imagine I'd say "I've bought three copies of the book." But this is different from your 'cabbage' sample; you're talking about a type of book, but you're not talking about a type of book. I've bought three of the same cabbage.I've bought three heads of the same cabbage. Your problems are that (1) you did not give any context to the examples you gave, and (2) you used "cabbage" and "cabbage heads", which are not the same thing. If you give some context to the image from the video, you will help us answer but you should also understand why the man said what he did. Your problems are that (1) you did not give any context to the examples you gave, and (2) you used "cabbage" and "cabbage heads", which are not the same thing. I actually meant the first scenario, but indeed there might be two of them.Scenario 1: I bought three identical cabbages, almost the same weight, almost the same shape and, of course, the same kind.Scenario 2: I bought three heads of the same type, each head is different in weight. If you give some context to the image from the video, The guy in the video wanted to buy three different pineapples so as to compare the flavour to see if they are indeed different or if it turned out they were the same, with just the shapes being totally different. In other words he hoped he hadn't bought three pineapples of the same type. Last edited: Aug 28, 2021 The distinction between your original two sentences in #1 does not reflect the distinction between your two scenarios in #13.They both use the phrase "of the same cabbage", which I would in both cases interpret as the same kind of cabbage, not size, shape, or weight.The phrase does not imply that they are identical or nearly identical, nor does the addition of "heads of" really change anything. I would not normally even use the word "head" in this context at all, but instead use "cabbage" countably in the plural (see #2, #3). If you bought three identical books, wouldn't you say this?I've bought three of the same book. I'd say I bought three copies of the same book. And does this work?I've bought three pairs of the same jeans. Yes, I think so, but I'd be more likely to say that I'd bought three pairs of identical jeans. How about these? Scenario 1: I'm talking about myself only and say what I drank. It was three glasses and each time it was the kind of champagne I drank three glasses or two of. So this works as well, right? I've got three hats of the same style/type. I have no explanation to offer for the plural bras and hats – to me, it's just how they speak. As for #24, these examples have the same structure as the cabbage examples. In reality, I wouldn't use "three X of the same type" or "three of the same type of X although those expressions don't sound outlandish to me. I'd say "I have three hats that are exactly the same."and "They bought three 2012 Toyota Camrys." I agree. It wouldn't occur to me to use "three X of the same type". It doesn't sound idiomatic to me. "I had three glasses of Moet / I bought three identical hats" etc. Not "I had three glasses of the same type of champagne" etc. Dear English speakers,could you help me decide whether I must use "by" to specify how much times one number increased / decreased in relation to another number, as in the example below.To me, it looks like there is substantial difference in the meaning.The company's revenue increased two times in 2018 = the revenue doubled (eg from USD 1,000,000 in 2017 to USD 2,000,000 in 2018)The company's revenue increased by two times in 2018 = the 2018 revenue increased by an amount exceeding the 2017 level twice (i.e. USD 1,000,000 + USD 2,000,000 = USD 3,000,000)Is this understanding correct or not? Thanks in advance to those who comment. "By" is normal after "increase" and "decrease". "By two times" isn't normal. Here is a normal use of "by": Sales increased by 17 percent last year.The company's revenue increased twice/two times last year. This is an unusual thing to say, but the words and grammar are normal.The company's revenue increased by two times last year Is this understanding correct or not? Thanks in advance to those who comment. Your understanding appears to be fine, inasmuch as the second sentence means anything, I strongly suggest only using "by" with percentages or fractions ("increased by 25%" or "increased by a quarter" for instance), and even then being a little cautious with percentages bigger than 150%.Even "increase n times" can be a little problematical in English.We almost invariably use "doubled" in your situation, and "trebled" and "quadrupled" where it increased three-fold and four-fold respectively. In general I would say we use terms like "increased five-fold" rather than "increased five times", because "five times" could mean on five separate occasions, rather than five being a multiplier. However, "fold" sounds odd with non-integers, so we use "times" instead, where something like "increased one and a half-times" cannot possibly be mistaken for a number of occasions. Both replies are quite helpful - thanks a lot! The math in your second example does NOT follow the language; 1M + 2M = 3M might be expressed this way: Revenue growth in 2018 amounted to twice the revenue of 2017. 2018 revenue was equal to three times the 2017 revenue. For me, without a math term such as equals, two times clearly means two occasions: I have watched this movie five times. I have visited New York ten times. We also hear increased by a factor of x which means the new amount equals the old amount multiplied by x.Such remarkable growth might be expressed like this: Revenue increased by a factor of 2.5 from 2017 to 2018. Today I meet the same problem as the poster mentioned.e.g. Output of coal increased fourfold last year. If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 333 tons or 250 tons? Last edited: May 13, 2019 changwecanbelievein said: Today I meet the same problem as the poster mentioned.e.g. Output of coal increased fourfold last year.If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 333 tons or 250 tons? Last edited: May 13, 2019 changwecanbelievein said: Today I meet the same problem as the poster mentioned.e.g. Output of coal increased fourfold last year.If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 4,000 tons or 5000 tons? In ordinary English, "increased fourfold" means it is four times what it was, so 4,000 tons in this case. However as you are well aware this does not stand up to logical scrutiny, and the writer would have done far better to write "quadrupled", or use a different expression that did not involve "increased", such as "was four times as high last year", but here you need to add "as the year before", as without "increased" it is not clear what is being compared - it could be four times as high as this year. changwecanbelievein said: The same problems also happen with these words "increase, decrease, raise, add, reduce".e.g. Output of coal decreased fourfold last year.If the output of coal was 1,000 tons the year before last, How much was the output of coal last year? 333 tons or 250 tons? Using "increased" is understandable, even if it may not be technically correct. Using "decreased" with anything other than a numerical value or a proportion less than one is meaningless. It could be 200 tons, of course: Starting with 200 tons and treating "increased fourfold" as additive would give 1,000 tons, so "decreased fourfold" could mean the same calculation in reverse. How did you get 333 tons as an option? For the second example, Thank you for showing me the usage of "decrease". Now I know this word can only be used with a numerical value or a proportion less than one. But how should I express the reduction of output from 1000 tons to 250 tons with "xxx times/fold"? I mean that the output from 200 to 1000 means five times/fold, not four times or quadrupled. So I think 200 tons is wrong for "four times/fold". My opinion is,"The output of last year is 4 times less than that of the year before last. What I want to tell the readers is "output of last year was 250, output of the year before last was 1,000". changwecanbelievein said: But how should I express the reduction of output from 1000 tons to 250 tons with "xxx times/fold"? I mean that the output from 200 to 1000 means five times/fold, not four times or quadrupled. So I think 200 tons is wrong for "four times/fold". The output last year was 0.25 times the output of the year before.The output last year was a quarter of the output of the year before.The output last year was 25% of the output of the year before."Fold" isn't used for fractions (not fractions less than one, at any rate). You can use words like "rise" and "fall" or "increase" or "decrease" to make it clear in words which way the change was, but you need to use "to", not "by".The output last year fell to 0.25 times the output of the year before.The output last year decreased to 25% of the output of the year before.You can use "fell by" or "decreased by" (with "from" rather than "of") if you quantify the difference between the two values:The output last year fell by 75% from the output of the year before.The output last year was decreased by three-quarters from the output of the year before. Last edited: May 14, 2019 Hi all, which expression is correct? Wich one, if both are correct, is more formal? Most people seem to use "in ten days time", but one sometimes one also reads the apostrophed version "in ten days' time". Thanks! Why Not? Hi all, which expression is correct? Wich one, if both are correct, is more formal? Most people seem to use "in ten days time", but one sometimes one also reads the apostrophed version "in ten days' time". Thanks! Why Not? I have seen this discrepancy as well, however, I write it as: "In ten days time, we will be going on holiday". To me "days" is not possessive with respect to time. I think of it as: "In a time of 10 days, we will..." Personally, I try not to use the expression "... days time" because it is redundant (and very old-fashioned) although it is still heard. It is enough to simply say: "In ten days, we will be going on holiday" Hi all, which expression is correct? Wich one, if both are correct, is more formal? Most people seem to use "in ten days time", but one sometimes one also reads the apostrophed version "in ten days' time". Thanks! Why Not? Simple test. What would you say for the singular? I'll see you in one day's time. or I'll see you in one day time. I had one week's vacation or I had one week vacation Thus 'She'll see in you ten days' time'. "She had ten weeks' vacation". Just to confuse things.I had a one-week vacation.She had a ten-week vacation. Also, although the length of time is plural the vacation could be singular, so be careful not to confuse "She had ten weeks' vacation" - multiple vacations totalling ten weekswith"She had a ten week vacation" - a single vacation of ten weeks Either way, I only get 5 weeks a year, the lucky so and so! Hi,So would a three months' journey be correct? (Though I suppose that a three-month journey would also be possible). Last edited: Feb 21, 2010 Either a three-month journey or a three months' journey. What's the difference between 3-year experience and 3 years' experience:10-day vacation and 10 days' vacation:4-week training and 4 weeks' training:100-year history and 100 years' history? I think they are all used, right? I know some exceptions such as "2 weeks' notice"-maybe, it's idiomatic but you wouldn't say "2 week notice." would you? Please help. Many thanks in advance. Could you please create some sentences using these phrases, Jakartaman? A "3-year experience" could mean something other than "3 years' experience". Please provide some context. You say, "This position requires 3 years' experience." but you wouldn't say "This position requires (a) 3-year experience." right? Why is that? But I think it's possible to say, "The company needs workers with a minimum of 3-year experience on computer programming." Maybe, I'm wrong. What do you say, Dimci? You say, "This position requires 3 years' experience." but you wouldn't say "This position requires (a) 3-year experience." right? Why is that? But I think it's possible to say, "The company needs workers with a minimum of 3-year experience on computer programming." Maybe, I'm wrong. What do you say, Dimci? The meaning of "experience" is different in your first two sentences. A "three-year experience" means that you had an experience that lasted three years. For example: I lived in France in the 1990s. It was a wonderful three-year experience." This position requires three years' experience" means, as you know, work experience. Frankly, I dislike this shortening of the proper phrase which is, in my mind "three years of experience". To make "years" possessive never made sense to me although there are others who would disagree with me. Your second sentence isn't correct. It would be ""The company needs workers with a minimum of three years of experience on computer programming." By the way - the general rule is that when referring to numbers less than 10, you write them out in full (one, two, three), 10 and over can be referred to by their numerals (10, 20, 30). I just read this thread again after all these years. I don't think I really understood what you were talking about back then . After 6 (long) years, it totally makes sense. I'd just like to say a much belated "Thank you!" Thank you for your helpful explanation 1. Which of the two is correct?2. Which of the two are correct? 3. Which of the three is correct?4. Which of the three are correct? Hi,Would you please help me on them? Which one is grammatically ok? Not a specific source/Self made general questionThank you. "Correct" is quite vague. If you're asking about grammatical correctness for example, then there can be more than one "correct" answer.If you ask "Which of the three are correct?", you're automatically assuming that two answers are "correct" but you don't know which ones.In short, you could say "Which of the three is/are correct?", but not "Which of the two are correct?". The latter would be nonsensical. Thank you. I wish one native English speaker would confirm or clarify it too. There is only one of the many that is correct; "which" therefore refers to "one"; one is singular. 1. Which [of the two] is correct?2. Which [of the three] are correct? 3. Which [of the two] are correct?3. Which [of the three] are correct?This assumes that there is one correct answer. There is only one of the many that is correct; "which" therefore refers to "one"; one is singular. That's what we assume. If you're asking the question "which of the two," you seem to imply that you're asking for one thing, and thus "which" is singular.However, with "which of the three" you could presumably be asking for two things: "Out of the three following statements, one is false. Which of the three are correct?" Excuse me I got more confused.In post #4 it is mentioned that "3. Which of the three is correct?" is correct. But in post #5 it is mentioned that "4. Which of the three are correct?" is correct.Would you please clarify it? There is only one of the many that is correct; "which" therefore refers to "one"; one is singular. Why would you assume that? 'Which' can refer "one" just as well as to "ones". If there were always only one 'correct' answer, you wouldn't see replies such as "Both are correct" on this forum,just to add to what I wrote in my previous post, "Which of the two are correct?" may not be wrong in terms of grammar, but it sounds absurd since you are assuming that both options are correct and yet you're asking the question. "Which of the three are correct?" is logically possible. Excuse me I got more confused.In post #4 it is mentioned that "3. Which of the three is correct?" is correct. But in post #5 it is mentioned that "4. Which of the three are correct?" is correct.Would you please clarify it? Do you think that out of the three things, only one is correct? Then "is" is correct.Do you think that out of the three things, two are correct? Then "are" is correct. Excuse me I got more confused.In post #4 it is mentioned that "3. Which of the three is correct?" is correct. But in post #5 it is mentioned that "4. Which of the three are correct?" is correct.Would you please clarify it? It depends on the context.If there can be only one correct option or we assume there to be only one correct option, we would ask "Which of the three/two is correct". If there can be more than one correct option or we expect there to be more, we would ask "Which of the two/three are correct". The question "Which of the two are correct" might be absurd, but I guess there would be some kind of absurd context too.However, I'd still like to see what others think about this, I'm not quite sure. Now I completely understood it.Thanks everybody. In your original post, you could have asked: Which of the four are correct?, as you presumably knew that at least two of them werec.

## What are the 3 arms of government in nigeria and their function. What are the three arms of nigerian government. What are the three arms of government in nigeria. What are the three arms of government in nigeria and their functions.

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