

Task [5] Govern and Agree

In all natural languages words that form phrases need to cooperate with each other in terms of their grammatical forms in order for the expressions they create to be grammatically correct. This cooperation is established via two relations: syntactic government and syntactic agreement.

1. **Syntactic government** – one word requires another word or a phrase to have appropriate inflectional value (form)

e.g. *Jan dał jej dwa samochody* 'John gave me two cars' – verb *dać* requires the one of the objects to take the dative case (*jej*) and the other the accusative case (*dwa samochody*) but the verb itself shows not visible changes with respect to these cases. (nb. sentence *Jan dał ją_{ACC} dwóch samochodów_{GEN}* where we have accusative and genitive cases is ungrammatical).

2. **Syntactic agreement** is a kind of syntactic relation in which the inflectional value of a word or phrase (the target) must be the same as the inflectional value of another word or phrase in the sentence (the controller) to which it is closely related.

e.g. *dwie kobiety* (two women) – numeral *dwie* agrees with the noun *kobiety* in grammatical number and gender (nb. **jedna kobiety* or **dwoje kobiety* are ungrammatical)

Knowing what syntactic government and agreement are, for each of the phrases below state whether the ungrammaticality results from agreement or government mismatch and indicate between which elements does this mismatch occur.

e.g. *Jan widział *dwoje kobiety* – agreement mismatch between *dwoje* and *kobiety*

Abbreviations used:

ACC – accusative (biernik)	NOM – nominative (mianownik)	PL – plural (liczba mnoga)
FEM – feminine (rodz. żeński)	MASC – masculine (rodz. męski)	SG – singular (liczba pojedyncza)
GEN – genitive (dopełniacz)	NEG – negation (negacja)	

- 1/ *dał nam po dwóch tysiącach (Polish)
gave us DISTR two.GEN thousand.PL.GEN
- 2/ *Jan nie było w szkole (Polish)
John.NOM NEG was.MASC in school.SG.GEN
- 3/ *krasnyj sobaka (Russian)
beautiful.SG.MSC dog.SG.FEM
- 4/ *Antworten Sie mich (German)
answer.IMP you.PL me.ACC
- 5/ *Du gabe mich ein Auto (German)
you.SG give.PRES.1SG me.ACC a car.ACC
- 6/ *She has singing three songs already (English)

- 7/ *los gatas (Spanish)
the.MSC.PL cat.FEM.PL
- 8/ *He saw I (English)
- 9/ *miła sekretarka szefa (Polish)
nice.SG.FEM.ACC secretary.SG.FEM.NON boss.SG.MSC.GEN
- 10/ *He might seeing Mary recently (English)

ANSWERS

- 1/
- 2/
- 3/
- 4/
- 5/
- 6/
- 7/
- 8/
- 9/
- 10/

Task [5] Govern and Agree

KEY

- 1/ Government [po dwa tysiące]
- 2/ Government [Jana nie]
- 3/ Agreement [krasnyja sobaka]
- 4/ Government [Antworten, mir]
- 5/ Government [gabe mir]
- 6/ Government [has sung]
- 7/ Agreement [las gatas]
- 8/ Government [saw me]
- 9/ Agreement [miła – sekretarka]
- 10/ Government [had – seen]

POINTS:

TOTAL 10 pts

1/2 point for identifying whether it is agreement or government mismatch

1/2 point for identifying which elements do not match