

Subject-Verb Agreement A

17b. A verb should agree in number with its subject.

- (1) Singular subjects take singular verbs.
(2) Plural subjects take plural verbs.

EXAMPLES Mexican **art is** interesting. [The singular verb *is* agrees with the singular subject *art*.]
Mexican **holidays are celebrated** in the Southwest. [The plural helping verb *are* agrees with the plural subject *holidays*.]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the verb or helping verb in parentheses that agrees with its subject.

Example 1. Mr. Frank (has, have) been studying Mexican culture.

1. Cinco de Mayo (*is, are*) an important Mexican holiday.
2. We (*celebrates, celebrate*) the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.
3. Some people (*watches, watch*) these celebrations in Los Angeles, California.
4. Others (*sees, see*) them in San Antonio, Texas.
5. The celebrations (*includes, include*) parades and dancing.
6. The women dancers (*wears, wear*) swirling skirts or brilliant colors.
7. Strolling bands (*plays, play*) traditional mariachi music.
8. Spectators (*lines, line*) the streets of the parade route.
9. The floats (*seems, seem*) lively and colorful.
10. Mexican Americans (*views, view*) the festivities with pride.
11. We (*has, have*) learned about Mexican traditions.
12. Many immigrants (*has, have*) brought new traditions from their homelands.
13. Mexican ballads (*is, are*) heard in the Southwest.
14. In Spanish, ballads (*is, are*) called *corridos*.
15. What subjects (*does, do*) these ballads describe?
16. In them, heroes' lives (*has, have*) been recorded.
17. Everyday people (*does, do*) appear in ballads, too.
18. Historians (*has, have*) begun to record these ballads.
19. They (*is, are*) trying to save these ballads.
20. (*Does, Do*) Horacio know any *corridos*?

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Choices: Investigating Agreement, p. 142

Choices activities are designed to extend and enrich students' understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics and to take learners beyond traditional classroom instruction. To use the Choices worksheet, have each student pick an activity that interests him or her. In some cases, you may wish to assign an activity to a particular student or group of students. You may also want to request that students get your approval for the activities they choose. Establish guidelines for what constitutes successful completion of an activity. Then, help students plan how they will share their work with the rest of the class.

Choices activities can be scored with a pass-fail grade or treated as bonus-point projects. Those activities that require students to research or create a certain number of items might be graded in a traditional manner.

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EXERCISE A

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. she ^S | 11. shelves ^P |
| 2. beach ^S | 12. people ^P |
| 3. we ^P | 13. many ^P |
| 4. men ^P | 14. guesses ^P |
| 5. mouse ^S | 15. geese ^P |
| 6. cities ^P | 16. chickens ^P |
| 7. I ^S | 17. loaf ^S |
| 8. mouth ^S | 18. us ^P |
| 9. plateau ^S | 19. prophecies ^P |
| 10. parentheses ^P | 20. citizen ^S |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <u>roofs</u> | 21. roof |
| <u>boxes</u> | 22. box |
| <u>e-mail</u> | 23. e-mails |
| <u>French fries</u> | 24. French fry |
| <u>calf</u> | 25. calves |
| <u>them</u> | 26. him |

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| <u>men</u> | 27. man |
| <u>sheep</u> | 28. sheep |
| <u>puppy</u> | 29. puppies |
| <u>stereos</u> | 30. stereo |

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EXERCISE

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. is | 11. have |
| 2. celebrate | 12. have |
| 3. watch | 13. are |
| 4. see | 14. are |
| 5. include | 15. do |
| 6. wear | 16. have |
| 7. play | 17. do |
| 8. line | 18. have |
| 9. seem | 19. are |
| 10. view | 20. Does |

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EXERCISE

- Two of the sparrows ^{are} is eating at the bird feeder.
- Each morning I ^C look out my window at the sunrise.
- No, he ^{does} do not sing and dance.
- After three months, the experiment ^{has} have been judged a success.
- The children ^C smile for the camera.
- The singers ^{are} is applauding for the winners.
- They ^C wave to the audience.
- That tree ^{has} have still not lost all its leaves.
- After every performance, she ^{bows} bow.
- Outside on the playground, children ^C laugh.
- This evening, Frank ^{is} are not needed at rehearsal.
- The geese ^{leave} leaves our town during the winter.
- Mario ^C wants the last orange.