

Subject-Verb Agreement B

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

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

EXAMPLE **Is she taking** biology class this year? [The singular helping verb *Is* agrees with the singular subject *she*.]

EXERCISE Underline the verb in each of the following sentences. If the subject and verb do not agree, write the correct verb form above the error. If the sentence is already correct, write C.

Example 1. My cousins ^{are} is bringing that delicious cinnamon bread.

1. Two of the sparrows is eating at the bird feeder.
2. Each morning I look out my window at the sunrise.
3. No, he do not sing and dance.
4. After three months, the experiment have been judged a success.
5. The children smile for the camera.
6. The singers is applauding for the winners.
7. They wave to the audience.
8. That tree have still not lost all its leaves.
9. After every performance, she bow.
10. Outside on the playground, children laugh.
11. This evening, Frank are not needed at rehearsal.
12. The geese leaves our town during the winter.
13. Mario wants the last orange.
14. We has been waiting for more than two hours.
15. Her sister have that CD.
16. They run together every morning.
17. Sophia need a new winter coat.
18. He always eat breakfast.
19. Jeremy does not expect any problems with the new equipment.
20. That bread smell delicious.

Chapter 17: Agreement, pp. 142–67

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.

Number, p. 143

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.

14. We ^{have} has been waiting for more than two hours.
15. Her sister ^{has} have that CD.
16. They ^{run} run together every morning.
17. Sophie ^{needs} need a new winter coat.
18. He always ^{eats} eat breakfast.
19. Jeremy ^{does not expect} does not expect any problems with the new equipment.
20. That bread ^{smells} smell delicious.

Subject-Verb Agreement C, p. 146

EXERCISE A

1. People throughout history (*has, have*) been fascinated by the moon.
2. The distance to the moon (*is, are*) 384,403 kilometers (238,857 miles).
3. The features of the moon (*is, are*) seen through powerful telescopes.
4. The sun, like the earth (*influences, influence*) the moon's motion.
5. The moon's orbit around the earth (*takes, take*) about 27 days, 8 hours.
6. The earth, at the same time (*moves, move*) around the sun.
7. A full moon, on the average (*occurs, occur*) every 29 1/2 days.
8. Tides on the earth (*rises, rise*) according to the moon's gravitational pull.
9. Photography from lunar-orbiting vehicles (*shows, show*) features on the moon's surface.
10. Exploration of the moon (*continues, continue*).

EXERCISE B

11. The names of some American Jewish authors (*is, are*) well known.
12. A famous author of short stories and novels (*is, are*) Bernard Malamud.
13. Jewish writers of fiction (*includes, include*) Saul Bellow.
14. A Nobel Prize in literature (*was, were*) awarded to Saul Bellow.
15. Another writer of Jewish descent (*is, are*) Philip Roth.

Subject-Verb Agreement D, p. 147

EXERCISE A

1. One of my brothers (*plants, plant*) tomatoes every year.
2. No one on my block (*believes, believe*) his plants will grow.
3. Everyone in the neighborhood (*says, say*) the soil is not good enough.
4. Most of the plants (*does, do*) not do very well.
5. A few of them (*reaches, reach*) full size.
6. Usually everyone in the family (*eats, eat*) these tomatoes in a salad.
7. Most of the salad (*is, are*) greens.
8. Several of us (*prefers, prefer*) blue cheese dressing on the salad.
9. None of us (*likes, like*) that kind of salad dressing.
10. All of the tomatoes (*is, are*) eaten before they spoil.