

Subject-Verb Agreement I

17l. Some nouns that are plural in form take singular verbs.

EXAMPLE **Physics is** my sister's major in college.

17m. An expression of an amount (a measurement, a percentage, or a fraction, for example) may be singular or plural, depending on how it is used.

EXAMPLES **Five dollars is** a good price for that football.

Two of these dollars **are** torn at the edges.

EXERCISE Underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses in each sentence.

Example 1. Chickenpox (is, are) common among young children.

1. (*Is, Are*) eighteen weeks the length of the typical semester?
2. Seven dollars (*is, are*) the price of a movie ticket.
3. Two thirds of the students (*has, have*) finished the work already.
4. Three fourths of the watermelon (*was, were*) eaten immediately.
5. Two thousand pounds (*equals, equal*) one ton.
6. Three tons (*is, are*) the weight of Ed's truck.
7. (*Does, Do*) thirty-six inches equal a yard?
8. Two quarters (*is, are*) lying on the floor next to the vending machine.
9. Two quarters (*is, are*) the price of a granola bar from the machine.
10. The news about the hurricane (*was, were*) alarming.
11. (*Was, Were*) 3,500 pounds stated as the amount of the elevator's load limit?
12. Two days (*is, are*) not enough time for my test preparation!
13. Unfortunately, both of the days (*was, were*) spent in panic.
14. Mathematics (*is, are*) my strongest subject.
15. Loose curls (*is, are*) Mindy's everyday hairstyle.
16. (*Is, Are*) her curls natural?
17. Pets (*was, were*) the topic of my research report.
18. Two hundred square feet (*is, are*) the size of this room.
19. Forty hours (*makes, make*) a workweek.
20. Genetics (*is, are*) a science that has always fascinated Tina.

13. The audience (^P*was, were*) taking notes, sitting quietly, or sleeping.
14. The fleet (^S*sail, sails*) home tomorrow.
15. The group of students (^S*sit, sits*) one by one on the bench outside the school.
16. (^P*Are, Is*) the visiting chorus staying at several guest houses?
17. During the semester the faculty (^P*is, are*) helping the students with fund-raisers. [or During the semester the faculty (^S*is, are*) helping the students with fund-raisers.]
18. The faculty (^P*is, are*) meeting with their team captains in their classrooms.
19. The flock (^S*fly, flies*) over this area each autumn.
20. The set (^P*is, are*) all in perfect condition except for the one you cracked.

Subject-Verb Agreement H, p. 151

EXERCISE A

- Here (*is, are*) the worksheets for today's class.
- (*There's, There are*) an answer key in the locked desk drawer.
- On the chalkboard (*is, are*) written the instructions.
- Where (*is, are*) the other assignments for the class?
- Oh, there (*is, are*) the dictionary.
- (*Who's, Who are*) the student assistant today?
- (*Is, Are*) both of you assistants?
- Over here (*is, are*) the papers for the students.

- (*Was, Were*) there enough copies for everyone?
- (*Here's, Here are*) one more copy.

EXERCISE B

- There are several places in need of volunteers in our community.
- What is the types of volunteer activities available?
- Here's a list of community centers and hospitals.
- On one of these pages are a parental consent form.
- There's several locations in immediate need of your help.

Subject-Verb Agreement I, p. 152

EXERCISE

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|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Is | 8. are | 15. is |
| 2. is | 9. is | 16. Are |
| 3. have | 10. was | 17. was |
| 4. was | 11. Was | 18. is |
| 5. equals | 12. is | 19. makes |
| 6. is | 13. were | 20. is |
| 7. Does | 14. is | |

Subject-Verb Agreement J, p. 153

EXERCISE

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|----------|--------------|
| 1. is | 11. was |
| 2. is | 12. was |
| 3. was | 13. sponsors |
| 4. Does | 14. is |
| 5. has | 15. is |
| 6. takes | 16. accepts |
| 7. is | 17. shares |
| 8. was | 18. was |
| 9. Is | 19. shows |
| 10. is | 20. is |