

Subject-Verb Agreement

Directions: Underline the subject (s) of the following sentences. On the line provided, label them singular or plural. Then, circle the correct verb.

When you are done, please check your answers with the key, and discuss your incorrect answers with a partner in class.

Sample: P A boy and a girl from each district (is/are) chosen to compete in the Hunger Games.

1. _____ The dandelions, not the dogwood tree (is/are) important symbols of hope throughout the stories.
2. _____ Crushed leaves from a mint plant (makes/make) a healing balm for Kat's bee stings.
3. _____ None of the candidates (wants/want) to fight in the games
4. _____ Everyone, including the movie critics, (raves/rave) about the first movie.
5. _____ (Is/Are) either of the books available in the school's library?
6. _____ A few of the book's readers (was/were) surprised by the characters who (dies/die).
7. _____ Either a ticket or printed coupons (is/are) needed to see the movie.
8. _____ The audience (is/are) allowed to pool their donations to send in helpful gifts.
9. _____ The citizens (sees/see) highlighted portions of the games on their televisions.
10. _____ Either bees or a wall of fire (hurts/hurt) Kat in the third book.
11. _____ Many a young candidate (dies/die) a gruesome death.
12. _____ Indeed, *The Hunger Games* (is/are) a captivating novel.
13. _____ Reading an entire series (is/are) good for your imagination.

14. _____ Sadly, Mrs. Wolters (has/have) run out of ideas for sentences about *The Hunger Games*, and now you'll (has/have) to read boring, pre-written sentences out of her teaching material supplies.
15. _____ A large crowd of people (was/were) clapping their hands and cheering.
16. _____ Some of the coins on the table (belongs/belong) to me.
17. _____ The class (was/were) introduced to its state representative.
18. _____ Two cups of peeled, sliced apples (fill/fills) the bowl.
19. _____ A troop of Boy Scouts (is/are) a welcome sight to a lost hiker.
20. _____ Kevin is the only one of my friends who (have/has) not seen a live performance.

Other Problems in Agreement D

- 16j.** When the relative pronoun *that*, *which*, or *who* is the subject in an adjective clause, the verb in the clause agrees with the word to which the relative pronoun refers.

EXAMPLES The actors from our school **who are performing** today are Mattie and Phoebe.

The actors from a school **that is** across town are Carlos and Ronny.

- 16k.** A subject preceded by *every* or *many a(n)* takes a singular verb.

EXAMPLES **Every student and teacher was applauding.**

Many a cheer was heard.

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, underline the correct verb in parentheses.

Example 1. Mimes are a type of entertainer who (*perform, performs*) without speaking.

- Many a young person (*enjoy, enjoys*) the charming performance of mimes.
- Kevin is the only one of my friends who (*have, has*) not seen a live performance.
- Every act and skit of the mime (*centers, center*) on gesture, movement, and expression.
- Actors from the silent film era who (*was, were*) mimes include Charlie Chaplin and Ben Turpin.
- Entertainers such as the circus clown, who (*is, are*) known for nonverbal performance, are a kind of mime.
- Emmett Kelly is one of those circus clowns who (*is, are*) hard to forget.
- Many a child and parent (*has, have*) seen Emmett Kelly or a clown like him.
- Television entertainers, who (*is, are*) generally quite vocal, can also be mimes.
- The entertainer Sid Caesar, who (*was, were*) a master mime, had a television show in the 1950s.
- Every student and practitioner of mime (*is, are*) sure to know about Marcel Marceau.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences if the verb does not agree with its subject, cross out the incorrect verb form and write the correct form above it. If the verb already agrees with the subject, write C above the verb.

Example 1. The films in the class that ~~are~~^{is} on film history included a clip of Marceau.

- The French mime Marcel Marceau, who was born in 1923, performs with graceful simplicity.
- He studied at the School of Dramatic Art of the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, which are in Paris.
- Every fan and film student surely recognize his much-loved character Bip.
- A group of mimes and Marceau, who were their leader, formed a mime troupe.
- In the 1950s, many a country around the world were host to Marceau's mime group.