

# Indefinite-Pronoun Subjects

*Reteaching*

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to an unspecified person or thing. Some indefinite pronouns are always singular. They take singular verbs. Examples are *another, anybody, anyone, each, everyone, neither, nobody, and someone*.

Neither of the tour leaders **was** available.

Some indefinite pronouns including *both, few, several, and many* are always plural. They take plural verbs.

Few of the tourists **were** awake.

Other indefinite pronouns including *all, any, most, none, and some* can be singular or plural depending on how they are used. If the pronoun refers to one person or thing, it takes a singular verb. If it refers to two or more people or things, it takes a plural verb.

All of the tourists **were** sick. (There are many tourists.)

All of the food **was** examined. (The food is considered as only one quantity.)

To determine whether the pronoun takes a singular or plural verb, find the noun it refers to.

## A. Identifying Indefinite Pronouns

In each sentence, underline the indefinite pronoun that appears as the subject. On the line, write **Singular** if the pronoun refers to one person or thing, or **Plural** if it refers to more than one. If the pronoun can be either singular or plural, draw two lines under the word naming the person(s) or thing(s) it refers to.

EXAMPLE Most of the medicine bottles are empty. *Plural*  
Most of the medicine has been used. *Singular*

1. None of the socks match. \_\_\_\_\_
2. All of the detergent is used up. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Nobody knows all the answers. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Some of the buses occasionally run late. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Most of the noise comes from the air conditioner. \_\_\_\_\_
6. All of the shopkeepers want better lighting on the street. \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Making Indefinite Pronouns and Verbs Agree

In each sentence, underline the indefinite pronoun used as the subject. Then underline the verb form in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

EXAMPLE All of the doctors (was, were) puzzled.

1. Most of the student council candidates (write, writes) their own speeches.
2. Many of the students (is, are) curious about the upcoming campaign.
3. None of the information (has, have) arrived yet.
4. Few of the students (has, have) declared their support for any candidates.
5. Most of the wall (is, are) available for notices.

# Compound Subjects

## Reteaching

A **compound subject** consists of two or more parts joined by a conjunction, such as *and*, *or*, or *nor*. A compound subject whose parts are joined by *and* usually requires a plural verb.

That book *and* the magazine **are** both about fashion.

When the parts of a compound subject are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb should agree with the part closest to it.

Either the color photo *or* the black-and-white drawings **show** jewelry you'd like.

Neither the drawings *nor* the photo **shows** anything cheap.

### A. Making Verbs Agree with Compound Subjects

In each sentence, underline each part of the compound subject. Draw two lines beneath the conjunction that joins the parts, and one line under the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

1. Fashion and design (has, have) always interested humans.
2. Ornaments and other artifacts from very early civilizations (indicates, indicate) concern for personal beauty.
3. Neither foreign cultures nor our own society (has, have) a monopoly on fashion.
4. Hairstyles and clothing (tells, tell) others something about ourselves.
5. Some teens and adults (is, are) very experimental with fashions.
6. Magazines or television often (dictates, dictate) the current fashions and hairstyles.
7. Body types or size (does, do) influence our choices of styles to wear.
8. Colors and fabrics also (influences, influence) our choices in fashion.
9. Neither men nor women (underestimates, underestimate) the value of fashion.
10. Some men and women (spends, spend) a great deal to keep up with fashion.

### B. Correcting Errors in Agreement

If the verb in a sentence does not agree with its compound subject, write the correct present tense form of the verb on the line. If the verb does agree, write **Correct**.

1. The Singapore airport or other Asian terminals witnesses a wide variety of costumes daily. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The women and men passing through wear every imaginable kind of garb. \_\_\_\_\_
3. On any given day, a short man wearing a long beard and fur fez and tall, lanky girls in black leather miniskirts walks side by side. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Either women draped from head to toe in dark veils or a little girl in cornrows tied with bright ribbons boards the moving sidewalk. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Often either a long trenchcoat or bulky sweaters hangs over the arms of people arriving from Northern countries. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Neither area folks nor any other person from a torrid zone is without bright floral parasols that help thwart the intense tropical sunlight. \_\_\_\_\_