

Subject and Verb

A verb must agree with its subject in number. The number of a subject is not changed by a phrase or clause following the subject.

EXERCISE On the line provided, write the verb or helping verb that agrees in number with the subject of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: The number of major metropolitan areas in the United States (is; are) surprising.

- 1. A city, even with all of its problems, (is, are) an exciting place to live.
2. Cities such as New York City and San Francisco still (attracts, attract) millions of tourists every year.
3. Many large cities (is, are) subject to fiscal problems because of decreasing tax bases.
4. In the 1960's urban planners (was, were) responsible for enacting programs to help the nation's cities.
5. One of the many programs begun in the 1960's (was, were) the Urban Teacher Corps.
6. During these years a great concentration of energies and skills (was, were) focused on making our nation's cities more attractive.
7. High crime rates, as well as poverty, (needs, need) to be eliminated from the nation's cities.
8. Many of the efforts (has, have) not succeeded in eliminating various urban problems.
9. The city, once the center of America's cultural and technological achievements, (has, have) lost much of its appeal.
10. The amount of taxes spent on services for residents of large cities (is, are) staggering.
11. A very large city such as New York City (is, are) called a megalopolis.
12. Older urban areas, as well as newer ones, (presents, present) some of the most pressing problems for the nation.
13. Transportation, pollution, and overcrowding (ranks, rank) as major problems in cities.
14. Residents of a major city (has, have) recently indicated that the top priorities for spending should be education and law enforcement.

Handwritten 'is' above the first blank line. A series of horizontal lines for writing answers.

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CHAPTER 6 Agreement

Subject and Verb

A verb agrees with its subject in number. Singular subjects take singular verbs, plural subjects take plural verbs. The number of the subject is not changed by a phrase following the subject.

EXERCISE In each sentence below, underline the verb that agrees in number with the subject of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: The mountains and the valley (is, are) filled with silvery moonlight.

1. Who (is, are) the two people looking in the window?
2. Gerald's nickname, Little Feet, (is, are) misleading.
3. Several carpenters on the project (has, have) worked overtime.
4. The truck, loaded with boxes of soap, (has, have) overturned.
5. The sidewalk and the driveway (is, are) covered by a deep snow drift.
6. Lelia and Rick (is, are) the stars of the talent show.
7. Your friend and you (is, are) certain to enjoy the concert tonight.
8. (Is, Are) there room for one more in the car?
9. The algebra test (was, were) easy for Clarence.
10. The music and lyrics of "Something" (was, were) written by George Harrison.
11. The coaches of the varsity team (is, are) putting experienced players in the game for the last quarter.
12. Ms. Allyn's answers to our test (is, are) tucked into her file folder.
13. Clearness in writing and speaking (is, are) important in this class.
14. Feeling shy among strangers (is, are) a painful experience.
15. Kathy's pet rat, along with her hamsters and guinea pig, (was, were) moved into a larger pen last night.
16. The winner of both tennis matches (is, are) from Wayside High.
17. Here (is, are) the members of the team coming on the field.
18. The band members (has, have) arrived early for rehearsal.
19. What (is, are) the orders for today's marching drill?
20. Neither firefighter (has, have) said how the fire began.

Compound Subjects

Subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb. Singular subjects joined by *or* or *nor* take a singular verb. When a singular subject and a plural subject are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.

EXERCISE On the line provided, write the verb or helping verb that agrees with the subject.

EXAMPLES: David wondered why our car and our boat (costs, cost) so much to operate.

cost

1. Low fares and speed (was, were) incentives for suburbanites to use the new mass transit system.
2. The convenience or the comfort of operating a car, however, (make, makes) many drivers reluctant to use the transit system.
3. Many people do not seem to care that pollution and congestion (results, result) from the automobile.
4. In some cities the financial center or the shopping district (are, is) closed to automobile traffic.
5. Neither air pollution nor noise levels in our city (is, are) monitored regularly.
6. At local universities, studies and surveys on noise pollution (has, have) been conducted.
7. It is fascinating to learn how traffic sounds or industrial noise (affects, affect) city dwellers.
8. The health hazards and psychological effects of smog (have, has) been studied for years.
9. Heavy automobile use or geographic location (contributes, contribute) to the development of smog.
10. Some unpopular decisions and anti-pollution legislation (lie, lies) in the future for large city governments.
11. Urban residents and suburbanites (look, looks) to their elected officials to make tough decisions.
12. Going to the city for entertainment is easier in those cities where fringe parking and mass transit (is, are) available.
13. Experts say that frayed nerves and hot tempers (cause, causes) many rush hour accidents.
14. In making decisions for the future, government agencies and private corporations (considers, consider) flexible time schedules for their employees to help alleviate traffic problems.
15. Local environmentalists and transportation officials (disagree, disagrees) about whether new highways should be built.

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CHAPTER **23** *Agreement*
Collective Nouns

A **collective noun** is singular in form but names a group of persons, animals, or things. A collective noun may be either singular or plural, depending on the meaning of the sentence in which it is used.

EXERCISE Decide if the collective noun in each sentence below is singular or plural in meaning. Underline the correct verb. If it is singular, write **S** on the line provided; if it is plural, write **P**.

EXAMPLE: The family (was, were) standing on the front steps. S

1. The band (is, are) practicing for its spring concert. _____
2. The hockey team (has, have) all bought new uniforms this year. _____
3. The crowd (was, were) showing its displeasure. _____
4. The flock of sheep (was, were) confined to the shed. _____
5. The covey of quail (punctures, puncture) the stillness with the flutter of their wings. _____
6. The faculty (contributes, contribute) their time to chaperone extracurricular activities. _____
7. The audience (has, have) taken their seats. _____
8. At the commencement ceremonies the crowd (was, were) enthusiastic. _____
9. In their chambers the jury (is, are) discussing their various ideas. _____
10. The flock of sandpipers (scatter, scatters) themselves all over the beach. _____
11. Every family (has, have) its own schedule. _____
12. The school of salmon (was, were) swimming toward its nesting place. _____
13. A pride of lions (was, were) the subject that commanded the photographer's attention. _____
14. The class (brings, bring) their favorite dishes to the annual dinner. _____
15. The orchestra (is, are) playing its most familiar music for this concert. _____
16. A large group of students (walk, walks) to their homes from school each day. _____
17. The team (practice, practices) after school. _____
18. Where (is, are) the family eating this Thanksgiving? _____
19. The jury (is, are) ready to announce its decision. _____
20. The staff (meet, meets) every Friday afternoon to discuss its problems and plans for the following week. _____

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Indefinite Pronouns

Some indefinite pronouns are always singular: *each, either, neither, one, everyone, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody, someone, somebody, everybody, much*. These indefinite pronouns are always plural: *several, few, both, many, others*. The words *some, any, none, all* and *most* may be either singular or plural, depending on the meaning of the sentence.

EXERCISE In each sentence below, underline the verb or helping verb in parentheses that agrees in number with the indefinite pronoun subject.

1. Each of the girls (has, have) a job at the restaurant.
2. Some of the work (is, are) interesting.
3. Bill and Amy are working extra hours because each (wants, want) to go on a ski trip.
4. If everyone in the club (plans, plan) to go, we will need more than three buses.
5. I do not understand why neither of my brothers (is, are) going.
6. Even though the mountain is high, not all the trails (is, are) difficult.
7. Many of the basics of skiing (was, were) mastered.
8. Either of the intermediate trails (is, are) a challenge for me.
9. Every one of the skiers (like, likes) to be challenged.
10. (Is, Are) everyone interested in skiing again next month?
11. Anyone who wants to go on the next trip (has, have) to help raise money for the club treasury.
12. All of next year's itinerary (depends, depend) upon the success of our fund-raising campaign.
13. Many of the members (likes, like) to go to the beach also.
14. Someone who is interested in organizing the trip (is, are) needed.
15. (Has, Have) any of the members volunteered?
16. Most of the members (is, are) ready to help.
17. Several of those who work late every night (wishes, wish) they had more time to help.
18. Either of my cousins (is, are) willing to plan the beach trip.
19. Not one of the members with a heavy work schedule (has, have) time for a long weekend.
20. Not one of the trips (is, are) convenient for everyone.

CHAPTER **23** *Agreement*
Indefinite Pronouns

EXERCISE Some of the following sentences contain errors in agreement between the indefinite pronoun subject and the verb. Some are correct. On the line provided, write C if the sentence is correct. If there is an error, underline the error and write the correct form of the verb or helping verb.

EXAMPLE: Most of the topics listed for our debate is challenging to all of us.

1. Not all of the members of the class wants to study poetry.
2. Everybody in the literature discussion groups have been assigned one poet to study.
3. One of the groups want to study some of the works of William Butler Yeats.
4. Few of the students is familiar with the poetry of Yeats.
5. After beginning the research, each of the students has realized that analyzing poetry requires technical skills.
6. Most of the techniques for analyzing poetry involves a knowledge of figures of speech.
7. Some of the examples of contemporary poetry is fascinating because of the unique poetic patterns.
8. One of the twentieth-century poets, e. e. cummings, has left us a body of work that uses capitalization as a literary device.
9. Mr. Sanders asked if any of the cummings poems appeal to us.
10. Many of the works written in the last few decades reveals innovative language and rhythm.
11. One of the modern poets who did not depart from traditional poetic forms was Robert Frost.
12. Much of his poetry describe the New England countryside.
13. But no one should mistake Robert Frost for merely a painter of pretty word pictures.
14. Someone who carefully studies Frost's poetry understand that the poet uses nature to explain the complexities of modern life.
15. Mr. Sanders says that anyone choosing to study T. S. Eliot has a very challenging assignment.
16. Everybody who studies T. S. Eliot's poetry need to know classical mythology.
17. One of Eliot's favorite techniques were to allude to myths of different cultures.
18. Now everyone in those groups are investigating mythology.

are

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Review D: Agreement

EXERCISE In each of these sentences, underline the correct word or words in parentheses.

- Examples**
1. My brother or one of my sisters (is, are) responsible for the daily care of the horses.
 2. The soccer player who has the number 12 on (their, her) jersey is my sister.
1. Our family is proud of (their, its) ethnic traditions.
 2. The crosstown bus (don't, doesn't) stop at Columbus Circle anymore.
 3. The most valuable ingredient in any cook's soup is (their, his or her) secret spices.
 4. (There's, There are) several candidates on the primary ballot.
 5. (Don't, Doesn't) she have a cousin who writes scripts for television dramas?
 6. Karen is one of the students who (enjoy, enjoys) swimming.
 7. Every student and faculty member took (their, his or her) seat at the symposium.
 8. *The Lower Depths* (was, were) written by the Russian playwright Maxim Gorki.
 9. Two thousand dollars (is, are) the monthly rent for Dr. Simon's office.
 10. My favorite team (has, have) never won the World Series.
 11. Not one of the students turned in (his or her, their) assignment early.
 12. The table that has a pile of books on (its, their) surface should be cleared.
 13. Neither of the books (is, are) on the reading list.
 14. Most of the students ate lunches that (they, he or she) had packed that morning.
 15. The gleeful shrieking of the children (was, were) becoming annoying.
 16. The horses that have (its, their) saddles on are ready for the rodeo.
 17. My grandfather and his neighbors have formed (his, their) own neighborhood crime watch committee.
 18. There (is, are) always several puppies and kittens at the shelter.
 19. The computer that has (their, its) screensaver on is available for your use.
 20. Neither a book nor a video movie (was, were) able to hold my attention last night.

Pronoun and Antecedent

EXERCISE Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence. Write its antecedent on the line provided. Some pronouns have more than one antecedent.

EXAMPLE: The members of the golf team brought (his, their) clubs to the practice course.

members

1. The women on the finance committee discussed (its, their) opinions on the new budget.
2. Each of the lost animals was returned to (its, their) owner.
3. I recognized one of my neighbors at the garage sale, but I didn't speak to (him, them).
4. Neither Sara nor Naomi had (their, her) math project finished.
5. If you mail all of these letters today, people should receive (it, them) by Friday.
6. When that employer interviews you for a summer job, one of the things (she, they) will look for is previous experience.
7. Everyone has a right to (their, his or her) own opinion about how money should be spent.
8. Either Andy or Adam will lend us (his, their) lecture notes.
9. Each of the winning entries had (their, its) own special slogan.
10. In the attic there are six cartons filled with china, and (it, they) can be given to the thrift shop.
11. Can Sally or Lynn bring (their, her) tape recorder to the party?
12. Anton and his brother helped (their, his) Uncle Oscar build a dining room table.
13. The kittens don't like (its, their) new bed.
14. After Alonzo and I planted the tree cuttings, we watered (them, it) carefully.
15. Nina and Grace each built (their, her) own kite for a school contest.
16. Mr. Wilkins brought in a small telescope and set (it, them) on the lab table.

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CHAPTER 19 Using Pronouns Correctly

Using Who and Whom Correctly

The use of *who* and *whom* in a subordinate clause is determined by the pronoun's function in the clause. Follow these steps in deciding to use *who* or *whom* in a subordinate clause:

1. Pick out the subordinate clause.
2. Decide how the relative pronoun is used in that clause.
3. Determine the case of the pronoun according to the usual rules.
4. Select the correct form of the pronoun.

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the correct relative pronoun in parentheses. In the blank after the sentence, write how the pronoun is used: subject, object of verb, or object of preposition.

EXAMPLE: This is the story of a woman (who, whom) overcame many difficulties to study science.

subject

1. Do you know the mathematician (who, whom) Albert Einstein respected most? _____
2. It was Amalie Noether, (who, whom) was born in Germany in 1822. _____
3. She was tutored in mathematics by professors with (who, whom) her father taught at the University of Erlangen. _____
4. In Germany women scientists, for (who, whom) there were few opportunities, had a difficult time. _____
5. However, Noether was a person (who, whom) truly loved her field, and she studied for her doctorate. _____
6. At last the University of Göttingen made her a professor, but one to (who, whom) no salary was paid. _____
7. Later she was one of the people (who, whom) the Nazis did not allow to work or teach. _____
8. She came to the United States and worked at Princeton with Einstein, from (who, whom) she received high praise. _____
9. He said she was a creative genius (who, whom) discovered new methods of "enormous importance." _____
10. Other modern women (who, whom) have increased our knowledge of mathematics are Mina S. Rees and Mary H. Budenbach. _____

CHAPTER 19 *Using Pronouns Correctly*

Who and Whom

EXERCISE Underline the correct pronoun in the parentheses.

EXAMPLE: The young man (whom, who) won the race at the fair is my brother.

1. Do you know the name of the person (whom, who) invented the telephone?
2. To (who, whom) was he speaking?
3. William Faulkner will always be remembered as one (whom, who) delivered an inspiring Nobel Prize acceptance speech.
4. Was it Richard the Lion-Hearted (who, whom) tried to block the signing of the Magna Carta?
5. Benjamin Franklin, to (whom, who) we will always be grateful, is credited with discovering electricity.
6. Helen told me that the only man (who, whom) she would marry was in Germany.
7. I believe that Ms. Okimi knows (who, whom) to blame for this disgrace.
8. Wherever you go, (whoever, whomever) you meet, remember you always have a home here.
9. Was Henry Ford the man (who, whom) designed the ill-fated Edsel?
10. Maria favorably impressed (whoever, whomever) she met.
11. Would someone please tell me (who, whom) wrote *Oliver Twist*?
12. Was that the woman (whom, who) asked if the store accepted credit cards?
13. Give it to (whoever, whomever) would appreciate it.
14. How can you say that you don't know (who, whom) she is?
15. She is the one (who, whom) asked for another helping of the fruit salad.
16. The counselor (who, whom) he consulted gave him good advice.
17. (Whoever, Whomever) comes along now will be lucky.
18. Rosa had yet to find out (who, whom) her roommate would be.
19. Although it was not signed, Kim thought she knew (who, whom) had left the note.
20. (Who, Whom) is the person responsible for cleaning up the kitchen?

Review C: Agreement

EXERCISE In most of the following sentences, a verb does not agree with its subject, or a pronoun does not agree with its antecedent. Cross out any incorrect verb or pronoun. Then, above it, write the correct form. If the sentence is already correct, write C next to its number.

Examples 1. Most were satisfied with ~~his or her~~^{their} grade.

2. A squirrel or a bird ~~have~~^{has} been eating the blackberries off the vine.

1. Neither potatoes nor rice were my favorite dish.
2. One of your answers was incorrect.
3. Either Marisa or he are going to be the delegate to the conference.
4. One of the boys left their raincoat on the bus.
5. Where is the gifts you bought?
6. Neither her brothers nor she expects the team to win.
7. His feelings after the defeat was a combination of anger and disbelief.
8. Each of the delegates will pay their own expenses.
9. There was large quantities of surplus wheat in the grain elevators.
10. Two thirds of the day were spent getting the car repaired.
11. Neither Marco nor Lisette want to go fishing this afternoon.
12. Most of the games at the fair are intended for very young children.
13. Their hopes for a successful play was shattered by poor reviews.
14. Each of the students chose their own project.
15. A large crowd of people was clapping their hands and cheering.
16. There is always at least two librarians at the reference desk.
17. Every understudy who plan to succeed must be ready to perform at a moment's notice.
18. Not one of my classmates were prepared for the surprise quiz.
19. Some of the coins on the table belongs to me.
20. One quarter of the students want to join the drama club.