

WORKSHEET 1

Making Subject and Verb Agree (Rules 2 a-c, i)

EXERCISE

Wherever a phrase follows the subject, draw a line through it so that it won't mislead you. Then, underline the verb or helping verb that agrees in number with the subject. *Note:* Since some indefinite pronouns may be singular or plural, you may need to refer to the phrase after the subject to determine the number.

EXAMPLES 1. One ~~of the sleeves~~ (look, looks) too short.

2. The biggest bargain (is, are) the raincoats.

1. A common name for the Dakota people (is are) Sioux.
2. A few words of encouragement (helps, help) one to succeed.
3. The motto of *The New York Times* (is, are) "All the News That's Fit to Print."
4. One of the two theaters (has, have) been closed.
5. The new tires (was, were) my biggest expense.
6. My biggest expense (was, were) the new tires.
7. One of the wheels (doesn't don't) turn freely.
8. The price of diamonds (depends, depend) on their size and quality.
9. Paints (is, are) Yoshi's only extravagance.
10. One cause of traffic congestion (is are) poor planning.
11. Mr. Babinski, assisted by his two sons, (operates, operate) a garage.
12. The Organization of American States (includes, include) over thirty Latin American nations.
13. One of the members (supplies, supply) refreshments for each meeting.
14. The concert proceeds, collected at the door, (goes, go) to charity.
15. Their greatest concern (is are) their children.
16. The results of the election (was, were) a tribute to Shirley Chisholm.
17. The humanitarian efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt (was, were) well-known during her lifetime.
18. Estella's main annoyance at this campsite (is, are) the mosquitoes.
19. Some of the letters (has, have) fallen off the sign.
20. Not a single original Shakespeare manuscript, of either his plays or his sonnets, (exists, exist) today.
21. Several of her books (is, are) available in paperback.
22. None of her books (is, are) available in paperback.
23. The woman playing checkers in the park (find, finds) it difficult to concentrate.
24. Not all of the students (understand, understands) the assignment.
25. The goal of our efforts (justify, justifies) the means.

WORKSHEET 2 Making Subject and Verb Agree (Rules 2 a-d)

EXERCISE Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the verb form in parentheses that agrees with the subject in number.

EXAMPLES 1. Neither of my brothers (have, has) ever had the mumps.

2. Each of these problems (is, are) difficult.

1. Mr. King and Ms. Jackson (cater, caters) parties and weddings.
2. Mr. King, along with Ms. Jackson, (cater, caters) parties and weddings.
3. A prize or a certificate (are, is) given to each winner.
4. Every one of these words (comes, come) from Latin or Greek.
5. (Do, Does) every one of these rooms need to be painted?
6. The design of the table and chairs (have, has) been improved.
7. Each of these questions (is, are) answered in the chapter.
8. The students or the teacher (corrects, correct) the daily exercises.
9. The price of a new engine and its installation (were, was) too expensive.
10. Neither of these dresses (is, are) easy to make.
11. A friendly note or a telephone call (don't, doesn't) take much time.
12. The shortage of goods and the abundance of money (make, makes) prices skyrocket.
13. These kinds of shoes (are, is) hard on feet.
14. Either of these streets (runs, run) to the river.
15. Every pupil's height and weight (is, are) recorded each year.
16. Every one of the menorah candles (is, are) lit on the last day of Hanukkah.
17. Neither the music nor the words (seem, seems) very original.
18. Neither the words nor the music (seem, seems) very original.
19. The morale of Helen and her family (was, were) very high.
20. Kindness, intelligence or strength (arouses, arouse) admiration.
21. Nobody among my friends (says, say) anything bad about this movie.
22. That kind of music (soothe, soothes) its listeners.
23. Either Carole or Sandy (is, are) playing goalie tonight.
24. Neither the bandleader nor the musicians (know, knows) that song.
25. (Does, Do) anyone hear the rumbling of thunder?

WORKSHEET 3

Some Subject-Verb Agreement Problems
(Rules 2 c–h)

EXERCISE Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the word or words in parentheses that agree with the subject in number.

EXAMPLE 1. Where (*is, are*) the Orkney Islands located?

1. Approximately one sixth of a person's daily energy requirement (*is, are*) provided by a pint of milk.
2. (*Here's, Here are*) the spoons ~~for the gazpacho.~~
3. Blue Highways, which is full of fascinating anecdotes, (*chronicle, chronicles*) the travels of William Least Heat-Moon.
4. There (*has, have*) been too many traffic accidents on this road.
5. Ever since its first screening, Raiders of the Lost Ark (*has, have*) captivated audiences.
6. (*There's, There are*) a row of poplar trees ~~between the two farms.~~
7. (*Where's, Where are*) the keys ~~to the luggage?~~
8. In ~~which drawer~~ (*is, are*) the stamps?
9. "Still Just Writing" (*describe, describes*) the somewhat humorous plight of writer Anne Tyler.
10. Why (*doesn't, don't*) someone write to author Jamaica Kincaid?
11. How much (*is, are*) those boxes of stationery?
12. The entire faculty (*was, were*) seated in the first four rows at our graduation.
13. The audience (*was, were*) rattling their programs.
14. The team (*has, have*) yet to win its first game.
15. The class (*was, were*) checking their test papers.
16. The first ten minutes of the film (*is, are*) very boring.
17. Five dollars (*seems, seem*) a fair price for this dreidel.
18. Only two lemons (*is, are*) needed for this recipe.
19. Two or more inches of ~~match~~ (*protects, protect*) many outdoor plants throughout the winter.
20. Over eight thousand thin sheets of gold (*was, were*) used to cover the spire of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Myanmar.
21. There (*was, were*) several vacant seats ~~in the last row.~~
22. (*Is, Are*) there no bananas left for us?
23. Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds (*is, are*) coming to our local revival theater.
24. Twenty-five out of thirty students in the class (*is, are*) going to see the film.
25. Here (*come, comes*) the movers with our stove.

WORKSHEET 5

Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree
(Rules 2 j–m)

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun or pair of pronouns in parentheses that is appropriate for careful formal writing. Then, underline the antecedent of the pronoun you have chosen.

EXAMPLE 1. Many of the Australian Aborigines who speak Guwal speak a special language called Dyalnguy when speaking to (their, his) mothers-in-law.

- Wow! Both of the runners finished simultaneously, so (they it) will have to race again.
- No one should be made to feel that (he or she they) must like sashimi.
- Each one of the girls built (herself, themselves) a work area.
- All of our students expecting to graduate should be sure that (his or her, their) credits have been checked.
- Don't offer a ride to anybody unless you know (him or her them).
- At that time, few among the anthropologists spoke the language of (his or her, their) hosts.
- Most of our preparation showed (its, their) worth.
- Several of the bucks had already lost (his, their) antlers.
- Wisely, many in the audience had secured (his or her, their) seats early.
- Several of the girls had read the book, so the film's ending didn't surprise (her, them).

EXERCISE B Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. Neither Micah nor Jerry thinks Speech and Drama II is the course for (him, them).

- If you see Darnell and Vic, tell (them, him) about the meeting.
- If you see Darnell or Vic, tell (them, him) about the meeting.
- That restaurant's food and service are better than (they, it) used to be.
- Does an oak or a maple shed (its, their) leaves earlier in the fall?
- Shawn takes math and chemistry because she needs (it, them) for engineering.
- If the jacket or the coat is too long, you can shorten (it, them).
- Both Alice and Maria wondered if Maria had jumper cables with (her them).
- If you want a good meal or snack, you can get (it, them) at Bruno's.
- My little sister Raquel grabbed our ball and bat and ran away with (them, it).
- Food and clothing are more expensive than (it, they) used to be.

EXERCISE C For each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.

EXAMPLE 1. The crowd began stamping (their, its) feet.

1. *Great Expectations* should not be read in an abridged version; (it, they) can be truly appreciated only in full.
2. We watched in amazement as the swarm left (their, its) hive and soared upward.
3. Many people go to the Philippines this time of year; have you considered (it, them) for your vacation?
4. Any society must maintain traditions or (they, it) will disintegrate and be lost to future generations.
5. Señor Montoya's herd was ready, but he had no one to drive (them, it) to market.
6. Has Clark Brothers Appliances made Sunlight Shopping Center (their, its) new location?
7. When smoke filled the theater, the audience quickly left (its, their) seats and hurried out the exits.
8. The graduating class threw (its, their) hats in the air.
9. "Happy Trails" not only became Roy Rogers's theme song, but (they, it) became the lullaby for a generation.
10. The band practiced (its, their) most popular numbers.
11. The hen watched her brood of chicks as (it, they) pecked at the feed.
12. At last, the council voted on the plans for (its, their) new meeting room.
13. How did the jury decide whether (its, their) verdict would be "guilty" or "innocent"?
14. Color a dozen of the eggs at a time, and set (it, them) here to dry.
15. Yesterday, we discussed "The Weary Blues" and (its, their) connection to jazz.
16. Forest Fitness offers its clientele (its, their) own personalized training routines.
17. Because of (its, their) poor organization, the posse had not yet caught the bandits.
18. We like the Cool Ices shops and hope to see more of (it, them) open in town.
19. Every summer, the youth of our city spend much ^{of} (its, their) time at the city park.
20. Since I read "God's Trombones," (it's, they've) become one of my favorite poems.
21. Do you know what wildlife makes (its, their) home in a burrow like that?
22. Please ask the staff to bring note-taking materials with (it, them) ^{of} to our next meeting.
23. Today's Plants advertised that (it, they) would give away one seedling with any purchase.
24. At rehearsal, the choir practiced (its, their) parts before singing the school song.
25. The throng headed for the beach and took umbrellas and towels with ^{of} (it, them).

EXERCISE F Underline the pronoun in parentheses that correctly completes each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. Neither Valentina nor her friend Maria had pictures of (~~their~~, her) Venezuelan home.

1. Our congregation prides (~~themselves~~, itself) on singing well and loudly.
2. Yellow and orange lend (~~its~~, their) warm hues to the cozy room.
3. Did any of the movie deliver what (it, ~~they~~) promised?
4. Too often a crowd sweeps everyone along with (it, ~~them~~).
5. The new Two Brothers is a restaurant; (it, ~~they~~) will open next Friday.
6. How may Japan ~~or~~ Korea develop (its, ~~their~~) economy in the next century?
7. All of these garments can be purchased from (~~its~~, their) designers.
8. Either Janie ~~or~~ the Stedmans will do (~~her~~, their) best to get the flowers to the church on time.
9. Several of the artworks in the museum clearly reflected (~~its~~, their) African heritage.
10. Everybody will rise from (~~his or her~~, their) chair when the national anthem is played.
11. Neither my aunt ~~nor~~ my cousins want (~~her~~, their) lunch.
12. The drama class will present the play Raindrops and Icicles, which has three acts in (it, ~~them~~).
13. Both my brother and his employees enjoyed (~~his~~, their) day off from work.
14. The bull and bear stock markets have (~~its~~, their) own distinctive characteristics.
15. One of the most amazing facts about the lizard has to do with (its, ~~their~~) tail.
16. Sandra studied for the test by (herself, ~~itself~~) after she had studied with us.
17. Every voter in that precinct had plenty of time to cast (~~his or her~~, their) vote.
18. When do droplets of water change (~~its~~, their) form into ice crystals?
19. The hogs are waiting for this bucket of corn for (~~its~~, their) dinner.
20. Jeff stopped at Bringing You Flowers to see if (~~he~~, they) could buy yellow roses.
21. Each council member must file a statement of (~~his or her~~, their) campaign expenses.
22. Our graduating class should seat (itself, ~~themselves~~) in the assigned rows.
23. Either Fred ~~or~~ Nathan will give (~~his~~, their) speech tomorrow.
24. Traffic lights on Main Street were not changing the way (~~it~~, they) usually did.
25. Pinto beans should be soaked and rinsed before (~~it's~~, they're) cooked.

Using Pronouns as Appositives and in Elliptical Constructions (Rules 4 f, i)

EXERCISE Underline the pronouns in parentheses that are in the correct case.

EXAMPLE 1. After next week's meet, (we, us) gymnasts will be finished with the season's competitions.

1. The passing car splashed Luis more than ^{it splashed} (I, me); in fact, my clothes were completely dry.
2. Few people work as hard as (she, her). does.
3. We have attended two more classes than (they, them). have attended.
4. The Gabers don't have as many expenses as (we, us). do.
5. The dog's constant barking annoyed the Garcías more than ^{it annoyed} (we, us) because our thick walls muffle sound.
6. After Don and I had worked hard all week, the restaurant owner paid Don more than ^{he paid} (me, I).
7. Masako can type more accurately than (him, he) can type.
8. Since Jerome always feeds the dog, it obeys him better than ^{it obeys} (me, I), and his cat ignores me, too.
9. Lisa's aunts, Jo Ann and ^{Subj.} (she, her), should offer to help with the dishes.
10. The judge's decision was a complete surprise to two of the spectators, my mother and (I, me). ^{OP}
11. Only two students, Brett and ^{Subj.} (I, me), were on corridor duty.
12. Mr. Kramer recognized several juniors, Naomi and (we, us). ^{DO}
13. Two art students, Belinda and ^{Subj.} (he, him), made all the posters.
14. All the posters were made by two students, Bruce and (her, she). ^{OP}
15. The two of us, Carmen and ^{Subj.} (I, me), plan to take the course in French literature.
16. The best players in our class, Sandy and (us, we), ^{Subj.} plan to organize a girls' soccer league.
17. The class chose two students, Alice and (her, she), ^{DO} to represent them.
18. The library is used by two schools, Evans High and (we, us). ^{OP}
19. In a few more weeks, ^{Subj.} (we, us) juniors will become seniors.
20. My two best friends, Janell and (her, she), ^{Subj.} plan to room together in college.
21. The Johnsons live on the same street as (them, they). do.
22. The museum is offering a special discount to (us, we) students. ^{OP}
23. The new freeway will benefit Hartford more than ^{it will benefit} (we, us) since we seldom drive.
24. The three best students, James, Rebekah and ^{Subj.} (I, me), reviewed for the test together.
25. Only two people, Mr. Muntz and ^{Subj.} (she, her), may sign the building permits.

LANGUAGE HANDBOOK **4** USING PRONOUNS

WORKSHEET 7 Test (Rules 4 a-j)

EXERCISE A On the line provided before each of the following sentences, write the correct form of the italicized pronoun. If the pronoun is already correct, write *C*.

EXAMPLE he 1. Was it W.E.B. Du Bois or *him* who wrote that collection of essays?

- C/his 1. What was the reason for *him* dropping the course? ^{OP}
- C 2. The bouquet of red tulips was from Carlos and *me*. ^{OP}
- they 3. If it's *them* at the door, tell them I'll be right out. ^{PN}
- whom 4. After *who* are the American continents named? ^{OP}
- he 5. Joel and *himself* quietly left the room. ^{Subj.}
- them 6. We must play two more schools, Westbrook and *they*. ^{DO}
- I 7. The trouble was that Mika could run as fast as *me*. ^{I can run.}
- whom 8. *Who* did Lincoln appoint as his secretary of state? ^{DO}
- us 9. Do you plan to ride with the Ridleys or *we*? ^{OP}
- C 10. Only two students, Wesley and *she*, made perfect scores. ^{Subj.}
- C/our 11. My parents have no objection to us using the basement.
- I 12. Jesse and *me* made some popcorn. ^{Subj.}
- C 13. Sabrina and Mario constructed the stage setting *themselves*.
- who 14. *Whom* administers the oath of office to the president-elect? ^{Subj.}
- us 15. The long hike had made *we* scouts very hungry. ^{DO}
- C/their 16. There is no reason for *them* raising the price at this time.
- he 17. Alma can weld just as well as *him*. ^{he can.}
- she 18. "Where's the manager?" "That's *her* at the first desk." ^{PN}
- she 19. If it was *her*, I certainly didn't recognize her. ^{PN}
- C/my 20. The reporter took my picture without *me* knowing it.
- C 21. *Whom* did the anthropologist Ruth Benedict inspire? ^{DO}
- C 22. The coach lets Margaret pitch more often than *me*; he probably considers her the star pitcher. ^{he lets}
- We 23. *Us* students should give full support to our academic and athletic teams. ^{Subj.}
- us 24. Between the bull and *we* stood only a frail wire fence. ^{OP}
- C 25. There is nothing wrong with *your* refusing the nomination.

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LANGUAGE HANDBOOK **4** WORKSHEET 7 (continued)

EXERCISE B Draw a line through each error in pronoun usage. Then, write the correct form of the pronoun on the line provided. If a sentence is already correct, write C.

EXAMPLE / 1. Many other students and ~~me~~ share a fear of public speaking.

- us 1. Several ~~of~~ ^{OP} we students in Mr. Omar's public speaking class were afraid to speak before the group.
- us 2. We feel foolish when people laugh ~~at~~ ^{OP} ourselves for making a slight mistake.
- C 3. Mr. Omar said that we could overcome our fear if we would only try.
- us 4. He ~~told~~ ^{DO} we students who were nervous that we shouldn't object to being laughed at because the laughter was good-natured and friendly.
- C 5. He suggested a way by which we could overcome this sensitivity.
- C/their 6. We students would perform some silly stunt before our classmates and, in this way, get used to ~~them~~ laughing at us.
- he or she 7. No one was ever upset by a little laughter after ~~him or her~~ ^{Subj.} had taken this treatment.
- I 8. Two boys—Tony and ~~me~~ ^{Subj.} agreed to start.
- I 9. It wasn't Tony but ~~me~~ ^{Subj.} who ~~thought~~ up our idiotic stunt.
- C 10. I would gallop around the room like a horse while Tony held onto my shirttail and said, "Giddyap! Giddyap!"
- me 11. The idea was that everyone would laugh ~~at~~ him and ~~I~~ ^{OP} and that after that we wouldn't mind being laughed at again.
- C 12. Suddenly, in the midst of our act, Sally and Alvin, who were sitting near the door, looked very worried.
- him 13. "What's the matter?" I asked, looking ~~at~~ Sally and ~~he~~ ^{OP}.
- C 14. "It's the principal herself," gasped Alvin.
- she 15. Sure enough, it ~~was~~ ^{PN} her—with a most astonished look on her face.
- I 16. When Ms. Hopkins stepped into the room, no one felt sillier than Tony and ~~(I did)~~ myself—unless it was our teacher, Mr. Omar.
- us 17. The principal looked ~~at~~ ^{OP} we boys, and I could see that she was wondering why on earth we were behaving so crazily.
- whom 18. "You and he seem to be having a rather lively time," said Ms. Hopkins, ~~who~~ ^{DO} we had never ~~met~~ before.
- C 19. "What's wrong with you boys anyway?"
- us 20. The principal's sudden entry embarrassed Mr. Omar as much as ~~we~~ ^{it embarrassed}.
- he 21. It ~~was~~ ^{PN} him who offered the explanation for our peculiar antics.
- C 22. "We're having a little lesson in public speaking," he explained to the principal.
- C 23. "Speaking?" repeated the principal, who looked more puzzled than ever.

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- him 24. "Yes, we are trying to help Tony and he overcome their embarrassment," he added. ^{him DO}
- C 25. However, it was plain to see that Mr. Omar was in need of something to overcome his own embarrassment as well as ours.

EXERCISE C Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. (Who, Whom) wrote this famous epic poem is still unknown.

- The newspaper *El Diario* announced (who, whom) chose the committee. ^{Subj.}
- The newspaper *El Diario* announced (who, whom) the committee chose. ^{DO}
- Scholars have argued about (who, whom) wrote Shakespeare's plays. ^{Subj.}
- (Who, Whom) the president will appoint is anybody's guess. ^{DO}
- (Who, Whom) contributed this money is a secret. ^{Subj.}
- The card did not say from (who, whom) the flowers came. ^{OP}
- We finally discovered (who, whom) the stranger was. ^{PN}
- Nobody will envy (whoever, whomever) gets this appointment. ^{Subj.}
- A prize is given to (whoever, whomever) gets the most applause. ^{Subj.}
- A prize is given to (whoever, whomever) the audience applauds most enthusiastically. ^{DO}

EXERCISE D Underline the correct pronoun in parentheses in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. Maria Tallchief is the dancer (who, whom) I most admire.

- Most visitors (whom, who) go to Auckland, New Zealand, plan to return someday. ^{Subj.}
- Our chief of police is a person (who, whom) nobody can intimidate. ^{DO}
- The witness upon (whom, who) the prosecution had been depending failed to appear. ^{OP}
- People (whom, who) flatter you are not necessarily your friends. ^{Subj.}
- None of us knew for (whom, who) the gift was intended. ^{OP}
- Edgar Allan Poe is the author (who, whom) I believe invented the detective story. ^{Subj.}
- My grandmother was a person (who, whom) one could never forget. ^{DO}
- Unclaimed articles are returned to (whoever, whomever) turns them in. ^{Subj.}
- The people (who, whom) I like usually like me. ^{DO}
- Do you know (who, whom) the author of *Cane* is? ^{PN}

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