

## **SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT**

**Main Proposal:** Let plural subjects take plural verbs and singular subjects roam about with singular verbs.

**Proposal 1:-** When two or more nouns are present, ask the verb to agree with its proper subject instead of the noun near it.

The **quality** of language in British books **is** outstanding.

All the **books** on the rack **are** the law books.

**Proposal 2:-** Some nouns are plural by nature and like to be with plural verbs. Following are the names of these famous nouns-

Savings, thanks, surroundings, riches, goods, outskirts, belongings, particulars, premises, clothes, earnings, congratulations, people, police, crew and staff.

**Proposal 3:-** When the verb is holding hands with two or more subjects and wearing **either...or** or **neither...nor**, use a singular verb if the last subject is singular and a plural verb if the last subject is plural.

Neither Levin nor Kitty **wants** to live in a city.

Either John Galt or his representatives **are** to stop the motor of the world.

Either nurses or the doctor **is** responsible for the wrong operation.

**Proposal 4:-** When two singular subjects are joined by 'and', they form a pair (plural) and take a plural verb.

Dolly and Oblonsky were the first one to arrive.

Bob **and** Roger *are* playing a guitar.

**Proposal 5:-** Listen to what nouns suggest, if they suggest **one idea** to the mind, or refer to same person or thing, then the verb would rather stay single.

Bread and butter **are** kept in the refrigerator.

My bread and butter **is** earned by my working as a teacher.

**Proposal 6:-** Be cautious with the following-

Everyone, no one, anybody, somebody, everything, each and every, each of, neither of, the majority of, all of, some of and uncountable nouns.

All of food **is** stolen.

Knock! Knock! **Is** anybody there?

**Proposal 7:-** Economics, civics, news, mathematics, wages, linguistics, phonetics, politics, diabetes, measles etc are plural in form but singular in meaning and take a singular verb.

**Mathematics is** TG's passion.

**Politics is** the major part of the corporate world.

**Proposal 8:-** When there is a group of nouns (Collective nouns), a singular verb should be brought into action.

When the individuals of this group are addressed, we would like to use plural verbs.

The **crowd is** maddening.

The **population** of Japan **is** on its life time low this year.

The **family was** united on this question.

My **family are** always fighting among themselves.

The **enemy were** showing up in groups of three or four to turn in their weapons.

**Proposal 9:-** When noun denotes some specific quantity or amount considered as a whole, we should agree on a singular verb.

**Ten years is** a long time.

**The five thousand yens** that he gave me **was** spent in a single day.

**Proposal 10:-** There are outsiders (words and phrases) besides 'and' that attach themselves to the subject and make it look plural but the subject still stays the same. These are the famous intruders -as well as, accompanied

by, including, along with, in addition to and together with. So verbs, be careful!  
**Leonidas**, along with his 300 Spartans, **is** going to fight against the Persian army.  
**Reading**, as well as music, **is** my passion.

**Proposal 11:-** When the subject is commanding, ordering, or suggesting — ‘you’, the person being directed by the subject has to disappear. (**Subject expects itself to be understood**)  
(You) Listen to the sound of the music!  
(You) Suggest a plan for the month.

**Proposal 12:-** Both subject and verb give special preference to ‘None’. None can be treated as both singular and plural until someone else in the crowd doesn’t recognise its number.  
None of the men **are** ready for the war,  
None of the men **is** ready for the war.  
None of the dancers **have** given **their** best. (Here you can’t use singular because the word ‘their’ precludes the use of the singular verb.)

**Proposal 13:-** Sometimes nouns are playing tricks with you. They can beguile you into thinking they are plural when they are not. Nouns such as pants, pliers, glasses and scissors are regarded as plural (and prefer being with plural verbs) unless they’re preceded by the phrase *pair of*, so be careful!  
**The scissors are** lying on the table.  
**A pair** of scissors **is** lying on the table.

**Proposal 14:-** If the sentence is giving both positive and negative vibes, the verb will respond only to the subject giving positive vibes..  
It is not Cynthia but her **sisters** who **are** married.  
It was the **subject** of the movie, not the actors, that **has** charmed the audience.

### Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate verb

1. Either the physicians in this hospital or the chief administrator \_\_\_\_ (is/are) going to have to make a decision.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) my boss or my sisters in the union going to win this grievance?
3. Some of the votes \_\_\_\_\_ (seem/seems) to have been miscounted.
4. The tornadoes that tear through this county every spring \_\_\_\_ (is/are) more than just a nuisance.
5. Everyone selected to serve on this jury \_\_\_\_ (has/ have) to be willing to give up a lot of time.
6. Kara Wolters, together with her teammates, \_\_\_\_\_ (present/presents) a formidable opponent on the basketball court.
7. He seems to forget that there \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) things to be done before he can graduate.
8. There \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) to be some people left in that town after yesterday's flood.
9. Some of the grain \_\_\_\_\_ (appear/appears) to be contaminated.
10. Three-quarters of the students \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) against the tuition hike.
11. Three-quarters of the student body \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) against the tuition hike.
12. A high percentage of the population \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) voting for the new school.
13. A high percentage of the people \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) voting for the new school.
14. Neither his father nor his mother \_\_\_\_ (play/plays) mahjong.
15. Many a student \_\_\_\_ (has/have) made the same mistake.
16. Gold, as well as platinum, \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) recently risen in price.
17. The boss, as well as his colleagues, \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) been robbed by the robber.
18. Ten tons \_\_\_\_ (is/are) a heavy load.
19. Thirty years \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) a long time.
20. One of the books \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) been missing.
21. The poor \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) suffering.
22. You should decide which one of the three choices A, B, or C best \_\_\_\_ (answer/answers) the question.

23. The only one of these most intelligent students who \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) under 18 \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) Peter.
24. Economics \_\_\_\_ (is/are) almost as fascinating as accounting.
25. A number of people \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) sitting on the grass.
26. Each of the workers \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) given new safety equipment.
27. Harry, not his parents, \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) come to meet us.
28. I am writing to see if the police \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) working to resolve the gang wars.
29. Lolita is the only girl among her friends who \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) worth talking to.
30. The data submitted at the desk \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) incorrect.
31. Never \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) the weather been so good in the past.
32. Houses built before 1960 \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) lower costs than the ones built after.
33. Neither the teacher nor the students \_\_\_\_\_ (wants/want) to work on a Sunday.
34. Much of the machinery in the factory \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) redundant.
35. Bathing in hot-water springs \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) pretty common in cold countries.
36. Some of the books in the library \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) already been read by me.
37. Unlike most of the animals living in the forests, the gorillas regularly \_\_\_\_\_ (wanders/wander) in the areas inhabited by humans.
38. Playing sports such as tennis, hockey and football \_\_\_\_\_ (requires/require) immense stamina.
39. Some of the book \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) not an interesting read.
40. There \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) some concern with the new dress code which \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) been recently implemented.

**Identify the error/s and rewrite the sentences.**

41. Her partner and business associate, Jan Holder, distribute the daily mail.
42. Every pair of sunglasses she tried on were too dark.
43. The staff are eating at their desks to make Tuesday's news deadline.
44. Neither his partner nor his neighbors speaks highly of him.
45. The group of store managers have begun to arrive, one by one.
46. A special event, along with direct mail, have a great impact.
47. Special events certainly represents a significant investment of work.
48. Another excellent use of advertising specialty items are- as a reward.
49. Focus groups is especially useful for businesses.
50. There are trademark laws for anyone that have established a business name.
51. Many of the houses in this neighbourhood has a garage.
52. The trousers I bought does not fit me.
53. Half of the class are from Gujarat.
54. 40% of the team do not approve of the new captain.
55. A few of my classmates, along with the class captain is arriving early to decorate the class room for the fest.

56. Each of us is bringing a small gift that cost less than Rs one hundred to be given to the underprivileged children.
57. In India, one in three persons over the age of forty suffer from diabetes.
58. An established itinerary of events or venues used for a particular activity, typically involving sport or public performances are called a circuit.
59. Metabolism is the chemical processes that occurs within a living organism in order to maintain life.
60. The three men in the painting by Sumit is smoking profusely and climbing down the hill.

**Choose the correct option for the underlined part in the following questions.**

61. A Labor Department study states that the numbers of women employed outside the home grew by more than a thirty-five percent increase in the past decade and accounted for more than sixty-two percent of the total growth in the civilian work force.
- (A) numbers of women employed outside the home grew by more than a thirty-five percent increase
  - (B) numbers of women employed outside the home grew more than thirty-five percent
  - (C) numbers of women employed outside the home were raised by more than thirty-five percent
  - (D) number of women employed outside the home increased by more than thirty-five percent
  - (E) number of women employed outside the home was raised by more than a thirty-five percent increase
62. A new phenomena, which is visible at Managua's major intersections, are waves of vendors and beggars, which include many children and mob cars at the stoplights.
- (A) A new phenomena, which is visible at Managua's major intersections, are waves of vendors and beggars, which include many children and
  - (B) Visible at Managua's major intersections are waves of vendors and beggars with many children, new phenomena that
  - (C) A new phenomenon visible at Managua's major intersections is waves of vendors and beggars, many of them children, who
  - (D) Phenomenally new waves of vendors, beggars, and many children are visible at Managua's major intersections, which
  - (E) A wave of vendors and beggars, many of whom are children, are visible at Managua's major intersections, where they are a new phenomenon and
63. After this year's record-shattering January performance in Madison Square Garden, the ensemble were touted as the country's best new group in decades; no critic or reviewer had anything but praise for the young musicians.
- (A) the ensemble were touted as the country's
  - (B) the ensemble was touted as the country's
  - (C) the country touted the ensemble like the
  - (D) touting the ensemble as the country's
  - (E) they were touting the ensemble as the country's
64. Although the bite of brown recluse spiders are rarely fatal, they cause chronic flesh wounds, posing the greatest danger to the infant and elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to its poison.

- (A) brown recluse spiders are rarely fatal, they cause chronic flesh wounds, posing the greatest danger to the infant and elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to its
- (B) brown recluse spiders are rarely fatal, they cause chronic flesh wounds and pose the greatest danger to the infant and elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to their
- (C) the brown recluse spider is rarely fatal, it causes chronic flesh wounds, posing the greatest danger to the infant and elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to their
- (D) the brown recluse spider is rarely fatal, it causes chronic flesh wounds and poses the greatest danger to infants and the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to its
- (E) the brown recluse spider is rarely fatal, they cause chronic flesh wounds, posing the greatest danger to the infant and elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to its
65. Chinese, the most ancient of living writing systems, consists of tens of thousands of ideographic characters, each character a miniature calligraphic composition inside its own square frame.
- (A) each character a miniature calligraphic composition inside its
- (B) all the characters a miniature calligraphic composition inside their
- (C) all the characters a miniature calligraphic composition inside its
- (D) every character a miniature calligraphic composition inside their
- (E) each character a miniature calligraphic composition inside their
66. Discrimination in wages paid in occupations that are predominantly male over the predominantly female have given rise to substantial differentials between the wage of housepainters and secretaries and between the wages of parking-lot attendants and library assistants.
- (A) paid in occupations that are predominantly male over the predominantly female have
- (B) paid in occupations that are predominantly male over those that are predominantly female have
- (C) that favors predominantly male occupations over the predominantly female have
- (D) that favors predominantly male occupations over those that are predominantly female has
- (E) paid in predominantly male occupations over the predominantly female has
67. Dr. Sayre's lecture recounted several little-known episodes in the relations between nations that illustrates what is wrong with alliances and treaties that do not have popular support.
- (A) relations between nations that illustrates
- (B) relation of one nation with another that illustrates
- (C) relations between nations that illustrate
- (D) relation of one nation with another and illustrate
- (E) relations of nations that illustrates
68. Efforts to equalize the funds available to school districts, a major goal of education reformers and many states in the 1970's, has not significantly reduced the gaps existing between the richest and poorest districts.
- (A) has not significantly reduced the gaps existing
- (B) has not been significant in reducing the gap that exists
- (C) has not made a significant reduction in the gap that exists
- (D) have not significantly reduced the gap that exists
- (E) have not been significant in a reduction of the gaps existing
69. Less detrimental than the effects of bacterial transformation is the effects of bacterial deterioration: spoilage of food, metals corroding, decay of wood, and other undesirable alterations of substances.

- (A) is the effects of bacterial deterioration: spoilage of food, metals corroding
- (B) are the effects of bacterial deterioration: spoilage of food, metals corroding
- (C) is the effects of bacterial deterioration, which include spoilage of food, metals corroding
- (D) are the effects of bacterial deterioration, which includes spoilage of food, corrosion of metals
- (E) are the effects of bacterial deterioration: spoilage of food, corrosion of metals

70. Psychologists now contend that the way adults think and feel are determined as much by their peers in early childhood than by their parents.

- (A) are determined as much by their peers in early childhood than by their
- (B) are determined as much by peers in early childhood as do their
- (C) is determined as much by their early childhood peers as by their
- (D) have been determined by childhood peers as much as their
- (E) was determined as much by one's peers in childhood as by one's

71. Since 1975 the number of women in upper-level management in American corporations have increased by 25 percent; female executives' salaries, however, still lag behind those of their male counterparts.

- (A) have increased by 25 percent; female executives' salaries, however, still lag
- (B) has increased by 25 percent, however much their salaries lag
- (C) have increased 25 percent; female executives' salaries, however, still have lagged
- (D) has increased by 25 percent; female executives' salaries, however, still lag
- (E) have increased 25 percent; their salaries, however, still lag

72. Since 1986 enrollments of African Americans, American Indians, and Hispanic Americans in fulltime engineering programs in the United States has steadily increased, while the number of other students who enter the field has fallen.

- (A) has steadily increased, while the number of other students who enter the field has fallen
- (B) has steadily increased, while other students entering the field have declined in number
- (C) increased steadily, while there was a decline in the number of other students entering the field
- (D) have steadily increased, while the number of other students entering the field has fallen
- (E) have steadily increased, while that of other students who enter the field fell

73. Some analysts contend that true capitalism exists only when the ownership of both property and the means of production is regarded as an inalienable right of an individual's, and it is not a license granted by government and revokable at whim.

- (A) is regarded as an inalienable right of an individual's, and it is not
- (B) are regarded as individuals' inalienable rights, and that it not be
- (C) is regarded as an individual's inalienable right, not as
- (D) are regarded as an individual's inalienable rights, not when they are
- (E) is regarded as the inalienable rights of an individual, not when it is

74. The aristocratic values expressed in the writings of Marguerite Yourcenar place her within the French classical tradition, as does her passionate interest in history, particularly Roman history.

- (A) as does
- (B) so do
- (C) as do
- (D) so is the case with

(E) similarly, does

75. The bank acknowledged that they are and will continue to experience difficulties as it attempts to deal with the precipitous fall of the dollar against the yen and the dislocations reflected in the stock market decline.

(A) they are and will continue to experience difficulties as it attempts

(B) they are and will continue to experience difficulties as they attempt

(C) it is and will continue to experience difficulties as it attempts

(D) it is experiencing and will continue to experience difficulties as they make an attempt

(E) its difficulties are likely to continue as it attempts

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