

Subject Verb Agreement TUTORIAL

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

A Every one of the shirts has a green collar.

B Every one of the shirts have a green collar.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Every one of the shirts has a green collar.

Explanation: The pronoun *one* is singular and requires singular verbs. Do not be misled by the object of the preposition.

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

A This singer, along with a few others, play the harmonica on stage.

B This singer, along with a few others, plays the harmonica on stage.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: B This singer, along with a few others, plays the harmonica on stage.

Explanation: Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by words such as *along with*, *as well as*, *besides*, or *not*. Ignore these expressions when determining whether to use a singular or plural verb.

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

- A. Sandals and towels are essential gear for a trip to the beach.
- B. Sandals and towels is essential gear for a trip to the beach.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Sandals and towels are essential gear for a trip to the beach.
Explanation: two subjects connected by *and* require a plural verb.

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

- A. Everybody at the party was enjoying the food.
- B. Everybody at the party were enjoying the food.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Everybody at the party was enjoying the food.

Explanation: the pronoun *everybody* is singular and requires singular verbs.

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

- A. Mustard greens are my favorite vegetable.
- B. Mustard greens is my favorite vegetable.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Mustard greens are my favorite vegetable.

Explanation: the subject, "Mustard greens," is plural and requires the plural verb "are."

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

A. Each of the dancers twirls brilliantly.

B. Each of the dancers twirl brilliantly.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Each of the dancers twirls brilliantly.

Explanation: The pronoun *each* is singular and requires singular verbs. Do not be misled by the object of the preposition.

QUESTION

For each of the following, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

- A. Either the sculpture or the paintings are in the museum today.
- B. Either the sculpture or the paintings is in the museum today.

ANSWER

Correct Answer: A Either the sculpture or the paintings are in the museum today.

Explanation: when a singular and plural subject are connected by *or*, *either/or*, or *neither/nor*, the verb agrees with the subject closer to it.

QUESTION

Choose the correct option

Those children _____ arranged according to height.

- a. Was
- b. Were

ANSWER

Those children _____ arranged
according to height.

a. Was

b. Were

QUESTION

Choose the correct option

That man _____ the one who painted our house last summer.

- a. **Is**
- b. are

ANSWER

That man _____ the one who painted
our house last summer.

a. Is

b. are

QUESTION

Choose the correct option

James _____ a lot of questions because he is anxious to learn.

- a. Ask
- b. asks

ANSWER

James _____ a lot of questions because he is anxious to learn.

a. Ask

b. asks

QUESTIONS

1. One of the students (is/are) studying algebra.
2. The exhibit of the artist's paintings (was/were) very interesting.
3. Mrs. Andrews, along with, Mr. Stone, (do/does) volunteer work.
4. All of the salesmen, including Mr. Stone, (was/were) at the meeting.
5. Every one of the girls (do/does) her shorthand homework.
6. Either Julia or her friends (is/are) planning to attend.
7. Both of the carpenters (is/are) planning to do the job.
8. Neither the students nor the instructor (want/wants) to miss class.
9. The women, as well as the men (sing/sings) beautifully.
10. Most of the nurses (work/works) every day.

ANSWERS

1. One of the students (**is**/are) studying algebra.
2. The exhibit of the artist's paintings (**was**/were) very interesting.
3. Mrs. Andrews, along with, Mr. Stone, (do/**does**) volunteer work.
4. All of the salesmen, including Mr. Stone, (was/**were**) at the meeting.
5. Every one of the girls (**do**/does) her shorthand homework.
6. Either Julia or her friends (**is**/are) planning to attend.
7. Both of the carpenters (is/**are**) planning to do the job.
8. Neither the students nor the instructor (want/**wants**) to miss class.
9. The women, as well as the men (**sing**/sings) beautifully.
10. Most of the nurses (**work**/works) every day.

QUESTION

Look at all the following verbs and label each as *singular* or *plural*.

1. was _____
2. look _____
3. thinks _____
4. is _____
5. were _____
6. ask _____

ANSWER

Look at all the following verbs and label each as *singular* or *plural*.

1. was _____singular_____
2. look _____plural_____
3. thinks _____singular_____
4. is _____singular_____
5. were _____plural_____
6. ask _____plural_____

Everyone__finished reading the fairy tale.

a) **has** b) have

Everyone__finished reading the fairy tale.

a) has b) have

Some of the students_left the classroom
for lunch.

a) has b) have

Some of the students_left the classroom
for lunch.

a) Has b) have

It's not the teachers BUT the director of the school who_on the course schedule.

a) decide b) decides

It's not the teachers BUT the director of the school who_on the course schedule.

a) decide b) decides

To take pay and then not to do work.....dishonest.

a) is very

b) Are very

To take pay and then not to do work.....dishonest.

a) is very

b) Are very

The cost of all these articles.....risen.

1. has

2.have

The cost of all these articles.....risen.

1. **has**

2. have

The jury....divided in their opinions.

1.Are

2.is

The jury....divided in their opinions.

1.Are

2.is

That night everyone of the boat's crew....down with fever.

Were
was

That night everyone of the boat's crew....down with fever.

Were

was

One or the other of those fellows.....stolen the watch.

1. Have

2. has

One or the other of those fellows.....stolen the watch.

1.Have

2.has

The strain of all the difficulties and vexations and anxieties.....more than he could bear.

1.Was

2.were

The strain of all the difficulties and vexations and anxieties.....more than he could bear.

1. Was

2. were

The accountant and the cashier.....absconded.

1.Was

2.were

The accountant and the cashier.....absconded.

1. Was

2. were

A good man and useful citizen.....passed away.

1.Has

2.have

A good man and useful citizen.....passed away.

1.Has

2.have

The famous juggler and conjurertoo unwell
to perform.

1.was

2.are

The famous juggler and conjurertoo unwell
to perform.

1.was

2.are