Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_

# Subject & Verb Agreement

Rule #1: Inverted Sentence.

When the subject comes after the main verb or one of its helpers, find the subject and make the verb agree with it.

Ex. There is / are three badgers bathing in our kitchen sink.

ARE is plural and agrees with three badgers.

Rule #2: Subject with AND / OR / NOR.   
Use a plural verb with a compound subject joined by AND. When two subjects are joined by OR / NOR, make the verb agree with the nearer subject.

Ex. Mitchell’s feet and Hayley’s hand cream smells / smell distinctly of Limburger cheese.

SMELL is plural and agrees with feet and cream.

Ex. Neither her boyfriend nor her parents knows / know about Emily’s secret obsession with pork rinds.

KNOW is plural and agrees with parents.

Rule #3: EACH, EVERY, and Similar Words.

Use a singular verb with ANY, EACH, EVERY, NEITHER, EITHER, MANY A (AN), A PERSON, and forms of BODY and ONE (EVERYBODY, SOMEONE, etc.).

Ex. Everybody in Marsh’s class is / are hoping for a real easy final exam.

IS is singular and agrees with everybody.

Rule #4: Modifier after Subject.

Don’t be deceived by a modifier after the subject. Search out the subject and make the verb agree with it.

Ex. A pack of hippos storms / storm through the nursery and defiled the sandboxes.

STORMS is singular and agrees with pack.

Choose the correct verb that agrees with the subject, using the rules listed above as guides.

1. A set of steak knives was / were given as door prizes.

2. The group of angry Canadians gathers / gather in the rose garden.

3. The children of Refton was / were malnourished and burly.

4. A pack of refugee Mexicans was / were smuggling Pez over the US border.

5. My breakfast of French toast sticks and sausage patties clogs / clog my arteries.

6. The sticks of pepperoni was / were lodged in Mr. Gallagher’s ear.

7. The disease that gave Cody a rash and brown toenails is / are gross.

8. In their backpacks was / were enough salsa to feed a small village on Cinco de Mayo.

9. Is / Are there any good modern remedies for “elbow stink”?

10. Here is / are the two boxes of rubber gloves you thought you had lost.

11. Where has / have the group of disgruntled senior citizens wandered off to?

12. Has / Have every puppy been given its meal?

13. Neither of the hippies has / have received the official “Al Gore Hug-A-Tree” Friend of the Planet certificate.

14. If any of the boys on the wrestling team wants / want a freshly washed singlet, I can let him have one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_

# Subject & Verb Agreement: ANSWERS

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