



# Grammar

## Subject-Verb Agreement

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## Subject-Verb Agreement

All students, not just language impaired students, struggle to some degree with subject-verb agreement. But in order to attain accurate syntax, students must match subjects to their corresponding verbs in terms of singularity vs. plurality. Students, therefore, must first be able to identify subjects and their corresponding verbs: a skill worked on in the *Subjects, Verbs, and Objects*, *Prepositional Phrases*, and *Adverbial Phrases* worksheets. They must also be able to classify subjects as singular or plural. The first *Subject-Verb Agreement* worksheet works directly on all these skills. The remaining *Subject-Verb Agreement* worksheets address two types of instances that increase the level of difficulty: collective nouns and verbs that precede their corresponding subjects. Answer keys are included.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject-Verb Agreement

Subjects are nouns or pronouns that do something (i.e., they go with verbs).

**Singular** nouns need **singular** verbs and **plural** nouns need **plural** verbs.

Examples of nouns and pronouns:

**Singular:** bird boy train man child I it stimulus report hypothesis

**Plural:** birds boys trains men children we they stimuli reports hypotheses

**Directions:** Identify the following nouns and pronouns as singular (S) or plural (P).

women \_\_\_\_ architect \_\_\_\_ no one \_\_\_\_ each \_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_

you \_\_\_\_ fungi \_\_\_\_ curriculum \_\_\_\_ galaxy \_\_\_\_ constellation \_\_\_\_

homework \_\_\_\_ professors \_\_\_\_ Susan and I \_\_\_\_ swimming \_\_\_\_

progress \_\_\_\_ medicine \_\_\_\_ organization's policy \_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_

computer programs \_\_\_\_ language \_\_\_\_ sheep \_\_\_\_ fish \_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Fix the verb so that it matches the subject/noun.

- 1) Known for their displays of wealth and exclusivity, the stores of Park Avenue in Manhattan showcases merchandise from many of the world's most exclusive stores.
- 2) Social inequality, a philosophy of enlightenment, and a financial crisis was important factors leading to the origins of the French Revolution.
- 3) The reporter was sure that the government's admittance of the terrible conditions in the African countries were calculated to reduce possible actions taken by other governments.



- 4) Although the speakers for the convention has not been determined, it is likely that the convention organizers planned to have several important experts in the field speak about their current research.
- 5) The journals of Jane Austen, an author of exceptional talent and wit, was mostly hidden or destroyed by her well-intentioned family who wanted to steadfastly protect her privacy.
- 6) Learning to eat healthful foods in appropriate portion sizes are very important to people trying to not only lose weight but also maintain their weight loss.
- 7) Megatsunamis, which can rise to more than one hundred feet in height, is caused by large-scale coastal landslides and can do much more damage than smaller tsunamis.
- 8) The work of some rock bands, including the Beatles, the Doors, and the Rolling Stones, never lose its authenticity and importance to the field of music, even fifty years later.
- 9) Those who criticize socialized medicine state that the benefits of the system is overshadowed by the fact that it assigns a huge financial burden on the average taxpayer.
- 10) One hurdle that many entrepreneurs must overcome are designing competitive products while manufacturing them at a low enough cost that enables them to continue charging prices considered affordable by the general public.



# Subject-Verb Agreement—Answer Key

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you: S/P fungi: P curriculum: S galaxy: S constellation: S

homework: S professors: P Susan and I: P swimming: S

progress: S medicine: S organization's policy: S they: P

computer programs: P language: S sheep: S/P fish: S/P it: S

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject-Verb Agreement – Collective Nouns

Subjects are nouns or pronouns that do something (i.e., they go with verbs).

**Singular** subjects need **singular** verbs and **plural** subjects need **plural** verbs.

Some nouns seem like they are plural, but they are singular.

They are called “**collective nouns**”.

### Examples:

army      assembly      audience      class      club      committee  
company      crowd      gang      group      public      team      collection

### What do these nouns have in common?

**Directions:** Fix the verbs so that they match their collective noun subjects.

- 1) The town of Port Washington have fervently embraced the new law requiring all homes to have white picket fences.
- 2) The entire crop of tangerines, except for one orchard standing at the foot of the mountain, were destroyed by a late spring frost that arrived in April and lasted for two days.
- 3) The couple, by purchasing all the Halloween decorations on November 1st for the following year, were able to save an enormous amount of money to spend on refreshments and costumes for the biggest Halloween bash ever.
- 4) That collection of owls of all different sizes are incredibly impressive.
- 5) The number of phone calls received by the town mayor after the destruction caused by the giant rats emphasize the public’s growing fear of those rodents.

# Subject-Verb Agreement – Collective Nouns

## Answer Key

Subjects are nouns or pronouns that do something (ie. they go with verbs).

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- 1) The town of Port Washington **has** fervently embraced the new law requiring all homes to have white picket fences.
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject-Verb Agreement—Verb before Subject

Subjects are nouns or pronouns that do something (i.e., they go with verbs).

**Singular** subjects need **singular** verbs and **plural** subjects need **plural** verbs, so first you have to find the subject.

Subjects are almost always followed by their verbs, but . . .

**Sometimes subjects come after their verbs in sentences.**

### Examples:

Once in a lifetime comes an opportunity like this. *This means the same as “an opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime”.*

At the top of the hill stands the oldest oak tree in the county. *What does this mean?*

On the top floor lived a very disagreeable accountant. *What does this mean?*

**Directions:** First find the subject, and then fix the verbs so that they match their subject/ noun in terms of singularity and plurality.

- 1) In the middle of the street is rows of trees with beautiful pink, purple, and white blossoms flowering fully by the first of May.
- 2) There is so many different ways to wear the scarf I gave you for your birthday, yet I've never seen you wear it.
- 3) Inside the piggy bank is eight dollars in dimes and twenty dollars in quarters, giving you just enough to buy your Dad that jacket he's been wanting.
- 4) Equally appreciated by Dr. Stark's students was his caring, his warmth, and his captivating lecture style, which made him a particularly sought-after professor.
- 5) At the edge of the stream is the beautiful rocks that shine like emeralds, and I plan to glue them to my tabletop at home.

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### Examples:

Once in a lifetime comes an opportunity like this. *This means the same as “an opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime”.*

At the top of the hill stands the oldest oak tree in the county. *What does this mean?*

**The oldest oak tree in the county stands at the top of the hill.**

On the top floor lived a very disagreeable accountant. *What does this mean?*

**A very disagreeable accountant lived on the top floor.**

**Directions:** First find the subject, and then fix the verbs so that they match their subject/ noun in terms of singularity and plurality

- 1) In the middle of the street **are** rows of trees with beautiful pink, purple, and white blossoms flowering fully by the first of May.
- 2) There **are** so many different ways to wear the scarf I gave you for your birthday, yet I've never seen you wear it.
- 3) Inside the piggy bank **are** eight dollars in dimes and twenty dollars in quarters, giving you just enough to buy your Dad that jacket he's been wanting.
- 4) Equally appreciated by Dr. Stark's students **were** his caring, his warmth, and his captivating lecture style, which made him a particularly sought-after professor.
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