

Subject-Verb Agreement

Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject:

1. A black cat (bring, brings) bad luck, according to an old superstition.
2. Young children often (protest, protests) when bedtime (roll, rolls) around.
3. My thoughts often (become, becomes) confused when I sit down to write an essay.
4. When it is hot and humid, my clothes (stick, sticks) to me.
5. A person (need, needs) to set goals if he or she wants to succeed.
6. The damages (were, was) not serious, but the cost of repairs was over a thousand dollars.
7. My head (feel, feels) as if it is about to burst.
8. Joseph (have, has) two sisters, one brother, and several pets.
9. When a tree (fall, falls) in a forest and no one is present, does it make a sound?
10. The food containers (is, are) stacked in the lower cabinet.
11. Mothers (like, likes) to see their children grow into independent adults.
12. My brother (work, works) at the Baptist Hospital as a physical therapist.
13. The little girl (have, has) a beautiful smile, even though her two front teeth (are, is) missing.
14. A kitten (open, opens) its eyes when it is about ten days old.
15. Some boys (pitch, pitches) with one hand and (bat, bats) with another.
16. Marvin's excuses for not having completed his research paper (bore, bores) me.
17. Speeding in restricted zones, especially those near schools, (endanger, endangers) lives.
18. One computer for two or three students (seem, seems) inadequate.
19. The popularity of violent movies (reflect, reflects) the values of our society.
20. Honeydews, one of the favorite melons of consumers, (taste, tastes) clean and sweet.
21. Coaches who are disciplined and who demand discipline from their players usually (have, has) winning teams.
22. The annual sales of video games in the United States probably (exceed, exceeds) a billion dollars.
23. Small amounts of tar and nicotine (damage, damages) the health of smokers.
24. Fiberglass, often used as an insulating material in homes, (cause, causes) allergic reactions in some people.
25. The women riding in the back seat of the car (was, were) not injured in the accident.
26. Animals which sleep in the day and are active at night (have, has) good night vision.
27. The students waiting in line for tickets to the concert (expect, expects) to get good seats.
28. A teenager who tries to conform to the expectations of adults (is, are) often ridiculed by his or her peers.
29. The bark of some trees (have, has) been used for years by herbalists to treat certain diseases.
30. Ben and Pete (want, wants) to buy a new computer.
31. The color and style (is, are) important most teenagers.
32. The price or warranty (is, are) not as important as other factors.
33. Neither a new television or stereo (interest, interests) Ben and Pete.
34. A large monitor and quality sound (impress, impresses) them.
35. The manager and sales clerk (try, tries) to convince them to buy an expensive model.
36. Neither Ben nor Pete (want, wants) to make a rush decision about the computer.
37. Video editing and computer graphics (provide, provides) new possibilities for user.
38. Most people know when a computer system or program (work, works) properly, and they can usually do minor repairs themselves.
39. A computer course and a reference guide (is, are) necessary for serious users.
40. A new keyboard or mouse (attract, attracts) those interested in upgrading their systems.
41. The sales clerk or the parents (select, selects) age-appropriate computer games for children.
42. Neither the directions on the package nor the brochure (explain, explains) how to play the game.
43. Both the hard drive and the software installed on our old computer (is, are) damaged.
44. (Does, Do) every boy and girl in kindergarten visit the museum?
45. Clowns and fools, as well as heroes, (appear, appears) in many of Shakespeare's plays.
46. Either the plaintiff or the defendant (has, have) changed his mind about the suit.
47. Neither the President nor his family members (was, were) safe.

48. Fish and chips (is, are) a specialty of local restaurants.
49. Every dog and cat (is, are) required to wear a tag certifying that it has been vaccinated.
50. The cook and housekeeper (is, are) paid a larger salary than the gardener because of the extra requirements of her job.

Answer

1. Brings
2. Protest, rolls
3. Become
4. Stick
5. Needs
6. Were
7. Feels
8. Has
9. Falls
10. Are
11. Like
12. Works
13. Has, are
14. Opens
15. Pitch, bat
16. Bores
17. Endangers
18. Seems
19. Reflects
20. Taste
21. Have
22. Exceeds
23. Damages
24. Causes
25. Were
26. Have
27. Expect
28. Is
29. Has
30. Want
31. Is
32. Is
33. Interests
34. Impresses
35. Tries
36. Wants
37. Provides
38. Works
39. Are
40. Attracts
41. Select
42. Explains
43. Are
44. Does
45. Appear
46. Has
47. Were
48. Is
49. Is
50. Is