

## Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheet

In the following examples, underline the simple subject and circle the correct verb.

1. The causes of this horrible disease (are / is) poor diet and lack of exercise.
2. The noise of the fan's screams (is / are) a problem at some football stadiums.
3. The legacy of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson (influences / influence) the NBA today.
4. The theory of physics (state / states) that all things are made of energy.
5. The malware on all the office computers (is / are) a danger to our security.
6. There ( is / are) five broken chairs in the office.
7. Neither my mom nor my sisters (know / knows) proper grammar
8. The members of the committee ( is / are) very esteemed in their respective fields.
9. The committee ( meet / meets) in the fancy office building.
10. Scissors ( is / are) too dangerous to give to small children.
11. The pair of scissors ( is / are) in the drawer.
12. Every single one of your sweaters ( is / are) too small for me to wear.
13. Your sweaters ( is / are) too small for me to wear.
14. The couch and the recliner I bought at Goodwill ( looks / look) a lot more expensive than they actually are.
15. There ( is / are) only one way I can answer your question: Yes, I will marry you.

## Answer Key

### Subject, Simple subject

1. The **causes** of this horrible disease (**are** / is) poor diet and lack of exercise.

“Of this horrible disease” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “The causes,” a plural noun. Now, would we say “The causes is” or “The causes are?”

2. The **noise** of the fan’s screams (**is** / are) a problem at some football stadiums.

“Of the fan’s screams” is a prepositional phrase. When we eliminate it, we are left with “The noise,” a singular noun.

3. The **legacy** of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson (**influences** / influence) the NBA today.

“Of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate and we are left with “The legacy,” a singular noun.

4. The **theory** of physics (state / **states**) that all things are made of energy.

Once again, “of physics” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we have “The theory,” a singular noun.

5. The **malware** on all the office computers (**is** / are) a danger to our security.

“On all the office computers” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “The malware,” a singular noun.

6. There ( is / **are**) five broken **chairs** in the office.

In this example, the subject of the sentence follows the verb. Keep in mind that “There” is never the subject of a sentence. Because “Chairs” is plural, the verb I plural as well

7. Neither my mom nor my **sisters** (**know** / knows) proper grammar.

Whenever we use a “neither/nor” or an “either/or” construction, we always conjugate the verb based on the second noun, the noun that follows “or/nor.” In this sentence, sisters is plural, so the noun should be plural.

8. The **members** of the committee ( is / **are**) very esteemed in their respective fields.

“Of the committee” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “members,” a plural noun.

9. The **committee** ( meet / **meets**) in the fancy office building.

“Committee” is a collective noun – a singular noun that consists of multiple people, places, or things. Other examples include “family,” “team,” “class,” “flock” – all nouns that consists of multiple things, but function singularly.

10. **Scissors** (is / **are**) too dangerous to give to small children.

Scissors is a plural noun, so their corresponding verb should be plural as well.

11. The **pair** of scissors ( **is** / are) in the drawer.

“Of scissors” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “the pair,” a singular noun.

12. Every single **one** of your sweaters ( **is** / are) too small for me to wear.

“Of your sweaters” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “Every single” is a modifier of “one,” so “one” is the simple subject

13. Your **sweaters** ( is / **are**) too small for me to wear.

“Sweaters” is plural.

14. **The couch and the recliner** I bought at Goodwill ( looks / **look**) a lot more expensive than they actually are.

There are multiple subjects in this example – couch and recliner - that are connected by “and,” therefore the subject is plural.

15. There ( **is** / are) only **one way** I can answer your question: Yes, I will marry you.

“There” is never the subject of a sentence.