

Exercise : Fill in the blanks with articles where necessary.

- opera is play in music. words are normally sung rather than spoken and orchestra plays in background. It was invented in Italy around year 1600.
- You need to lie flat on your face and use hand lens to study some of desert plants. In places full-grown flowering plants may be inch or so in height.
- Australia is crawling with marsupials. Of 16 families of marsupials, 13 are found only in Australia. platypus is found nowhere else. This astounding animal has duck's bill, webbed feet, and beaver's tail. It lays eggs like turtle yet has hair like bear and nurtures its young on milk. When first of these mammals (stuffed) was shipped to England in 1789, English thought someone had made it by sticking together parts of different animals.
- One day, Gulliver learned during private interview with Emperor's chief confidant that all was not well within state of Lilliput. Not only this, but neighbouring state of Blefuscar was threatening invasion.
- Of Seven Wonders of ancient world, only Pyramids of Gizeh can still be seen today. religion of ancient Egyptians taught them that soul had immortal life. They believed that safety and happiness of soul depended upon careful preservation of body after death. pyramids are really elaborate tombs for protection of dead bodies.
- As the day drew to close, prince found himself in poor section of city. lights began to twinkle, wind rose and gusty night set in.

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

The verb must always agree with the subject. Here are the rules.

- When the subject is singular, the verb is singular.
She **is** a policewoman.
That boy **sings** well.
It **licks** its paw gently.
- When the subject is plural, the verb is plural.
They **are** policewomen.
Those boys **sing** well.
Most people **like** chocolates.
- When there are two or more singular subjects joined by 'and', the verb is plural.
Gita and Ruby **are** policewomen.
John, Andy and Ming **sing** well.
Kim and Wang **study** very hard.
- When two or more singular subjects are joined by "or", "Neither ... nor", "either ... or" or "not ... but", the verb is singular.
Neither the boy nor the man **likes** cheese.
Either he or she **knows** the answer.
Not Xiupin but Lily **was** the winner.
- When one of the two subjects connected by "or", "nor" or "but" is singular and the other is plural, the verb agrees in number with the nearer one.
Neither the boy nor the men **were** here.
Not only the students but also the teacher **was** late.

6. When two subjects connected by "or" or "nor" differ in person, the verb agrees with the nearer one.
Kenny or you **help** her.
Either he or I **have** to tell the teacher.
Neither they nor he **gives** anything to the poor.
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7. When a singular subject is joined to other subjects by "with", "as well as", "together with", "in addition to", "no less" etc., the verb is singular.
My son as well as my daughter **likes** reading.
Maria together with her sister **is** going to France.
The gate in addition to the wall **was** painted bright yellow.
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8. When subjects are separated by "all but", "both ... and", the verb is plural.
All but Enck Huzaini **have** left.
Both Tina and Ana **enjoy** singing.
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9. When two or more subjects are preceded by "each", "every", the verb is singular.
Each adult and child **has** to pay to enter the showroom.
Every boy and girl **likes** presents.
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10. When two singular subjects refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.
Wendy, my good friend and neighbour, **is** a musician.
Mr Sivaraman, my boss and guide, **teaches** me how to be a good salesman.
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11. When two subjects are used to express one idea, the verb may be singular.
Bread and butter **is** all I take for breakfast.
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12. Indefinite pronouns like "anybody", "anyone", "everybody", "nobody", "no one" and "somebody" require a singular verb.
Is anyone feeling cold here?
Everybody **likes** sate.
Somebody **has** taken my bag.

13. Where a sentence begins with "it", the verb is always singular.
It **is** we who told him about it.
It **is** the Tans.
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14. When a sentence begins with "there" or "here", the verb agrees with the following subject, not the introductory word.
Here **is** your pen.
Here **are** the drinks.
There **is** nobody in the library.
There **are** lots of coconut trees along the beach.
Here **comes** the band.
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15. A collective noun takes a singular verb when it means a group.
The team **wins** every time.
The committee **is** going to decide.
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16. A collective noun takes a plural verb when it refers to the members in a group.
The team **are** working well together.
The committee **were** divided in their opinions.
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17. Titles of books, magazines, movies, newspapers or plays take a singular verb.
"The Sound of Music" **is** a musical film.
"Little Women" **has** been read by millions of people.
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18. Plural numbers take a singular verb when they are used in a phrase to mean a sum or unit.
A million dollars **is** a lot of money.
Three years **is** a long time.
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19. Some nouns are plural in form but singular in meaning. They usually take a singular verb.

Examples:

dynamics	economics	electronics
physics	statistics	mathematics

Physics **bore**s me to death.
No news **is** good news.

Exercise A: Choose the correct verb for each sentence.

1. Simon (is, are) exercising in the gymnasium.
2. They will (has, have) a difficult time explaining their absence.
3. My aunt and uncle (is, are) working in the same office.
4. Neither my sister nor my brother (speak, speaks) Mandarin.
5. Neither the driver nor the passenger (was, were) hurt in the accident.
6. Josephine and her friend, Frances (is, are) looking forward to the trip.
7. Either the boy or they (is, are) participating in the telematch.
8. Both my father and mother (reads, read) every evening.
9. Each boy and girl (has, have) to help out with the preparations.
10. Maniam who is poor but hard-working (is, are) well-liked.
11. Coal and wood (was, were) some of the fuel used in those days.
12. The crowd (is, are) getting restless with every passing minute.
13. The group of 'hell-riders' (gives, give) the town people a lot of problems.
14. Neither she nor we (was, were) at the scene of the crime last night.
15. Rosie, as well as her classmates (works, work) hard.
16. The government (does, do) not always provide subsidies for poor farmers.
17. All except the window next to the door (was, were) broken.
18. Not Suilin but her sisters (is, are) interested in learning German.
19. A handful of seeds (was, were) all the farmer needed.
20. The darkness and the silence (scare, scares) me.

Exercise B: Fill in the blanks with suitable verbs.

Soil formed by many processes. First, there the weathering of rock. This years of exposure to wind, rain and varying temperatures. Bit by bit the rock broken down, and chemical changes place as the minerals in contact with water and air. Then plant life into the soil-building process. Plants and decay. Bacteria on this decayed matter and in the soil organic compounds. New plants these as food. The length of time that it for the true soil to form on the type of parent rock, the general slope of the land and on the climate.