

EXERCISE 5: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. The lawn needs water every day, (or) it will turn brown.
- I 2. The book was not long, (but) it difficult to read.
- ___ 3. It was raining, so decided not to go camping.
- ___ 4. The material has been cut, and the pieces have been sewn together.
- ___ 5. The patient took all the medicine, he did not feel much better.
- ___ 6. The bill must be paid immediately, or the electricity will be turned off.
- ___ 7. The furnace broke so the house got quite cold.
- ___ 8. The dress did not cost too much, but the quality it seemed excellent.
- ___ 9. The leaves kept falling off the trees, and the boys kept raking them up, but the yard was still covered.
- ___ 10. The mail carrier has already delivered the mail, so the letter is not going to arrive today, it probably will arrive tomorrow.

SKILL 6: ADVERB CLAUSE CONNECTORS _____

Sentences with *adverb clauses* have two basic patterns in English. Study the clauses and connectors in the following sentences:

He is tired because he has been working so hard.

Because he has been working so hard, he is tired.

In each of these examples, there are two clauses: *he is tired* and *he has been working so hard*. The clause *he has been working so hard* is an adverb clause that is introduced with the connector *because*. In the first example, the connector *because* comes in the middle of the sentence, and no comma (,) is used. In the second example, the connector *because* comes at the beginning of the sentence. In this pattern, when the connector comes at the beginning of the sentence, a comma (,) is required in the middle of the sentence.

The following example shows how this sentence pattern could be tested in the Structure section of the TOEFL test.

Example

_____ arrived at the library, he started to work immediately.

- (A) The student
- (B) When
- (C) He
- (D) After the student

In this example, you should recognize easily that the verb *arrived* needs a subject. There is also another clause, *he started to work immediately*. If you choose answer (A) or answer (C), you will have a subject for the verb *arrived*, but you will not have a connector to join the two clauses. Because you need a connector to join two clauses, answers (A) and (C) are incorrect. Answer (B) is incorrect because there is no subject for the verb *arrived*. Answer (D) is the best answer because there is a subject, *student*, for the verb, *arrived*, and there is a connector, *after*, to join the two clauses.

The following chart lists common adverb connectors and the sentence patterns used with them.

ADVERB CLAUSE CONNECTORS				
TIME		CAUSE	CONDITION	CONTRAST
after	until	because	if	although
as	when	since	whether	even though
before	while			though
since				while
S V		adverb connector	S V	
Matt felt good		because	he passed.	
adverb connector	S V ,	S V		
Because	Matt passed ,	he felt good.		

EXERCISE 6: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. (After) the plane circled the airport, it landed on the main runway.
- I 2. The registration process took many hours (since) the lines so long.
- _____ 3. This type of medicine can be helpful, it can also have some bad side effects.

- _____ 4. The waves were amazingly high when the storm hit the coastal town.
- _____ 5. We need to get a new car whether is on sale or not.
- _____ 6. Just as the bread came out of the oven, while a wonderful aroma filled the kitchen.
- _____ 7. Everyone has spent time unpacking boxes since the family moved into the new house.
- _____ 8. Although the area is a desert many plants bloom there in the springtime.
- _____ 9. The drivers on the freeway drove slowly and carefully while the rain was falling heavily because they did not want to have an accident.
- _____ 10. If you plan carefully before you take a trip, will have a much better time because the small details will not cause problems.

EXERCISE (Skills 5–6): Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- _____ 1. The lawyer presented a strong case, but the client was still found guilty.
- _____ 2. After the children read some stories before they went to bed.
- _____ 3. The report needed to be completed, the workers stayed late every night for a week.
- _____ 4. If you do not turn on the lights, you will trip in the dark.
- _____ 5. A thick fog came rolling in, so planes unable to land.
- _____ 6. All of the shoes are on sale until the current stock is gone.
- _____ 7. The ship leaving the dock even though some passengers were not on board.
- _____ 8. The outline must be turned in to the teacher a week before the paper is due, and must approve it.
- _____ 9. Because the food was cold when it was served the diners sent it back to the kitchen.
- _____ 10. You should slow down while you are driving, or the police will pull your car over.

TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 5–6): Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

1. A spacecraft is freed from friction _____ launched into space.
 - (A) it
 - (B) it is
 - (C) after is
 - (D) after it is
2. _____ with their surroundings, or they hide in crevices for protection.
 - (A) Lobsters
 - (B) Lobsters blend
 - (C) Lobsters blending
 - (D) Because lobsters blend
3. _____ a ball-and-socket joint, the elbow is a simple hinge joint.
 - (A) While the shoulder
 - (B) While the shoulder is
 - (C) The shoulder is
 - (D) The shoulder
4. A car has several sections with moving parts, _____ of those parts is essential.
 - (A) good lubrication
 - (B) well lubricated
 - (C) and good lubrication
 - (D) and well lubricated
5. Bears cannot see well _____ small eyes.
 - (A) bears have
 - (B) because having
 - (C) because they have
 - (D) because of bears
6. _____ at the Isthmus of Panama, so animals were able to migrate between North and South America.
 - (A) A land bridge existed
 - (B) When a land bridge existed
 - (C) A land bridge
 - (D) With a land bridge
7. _____ mostly made of granite, it also contains some human-made materials.
 - (A) The Empire State Building
 - (B) The Empire State Building is
 - (C) Although the Empire State Building is
 - (D) Although the Empire State Building is built
8. Pressure differences make the eardrum vibrate _____ the ear.
 - (A) enters the sound waves
 - (B) as sound waves
 - (C) sound waves enter
 - (D) as sound waves enter
9. An optical microscope magnifies as much as 2,000 times, but an electron microscope _____ as much as a million times.
 - (A) magnifying
 - (B) it magnifies
 - (C) can magnify
 - (D) magnify it
10. If scientific estimates are accurate, _____ with the Earth about 20,000 years ago.
 - (A) the Cañon Diablo meteorite collided
 - (B) the collision of the Cañon Diablo meteorite
 - (C) the Cañon Diablo meteorite colliding
 - (D) colliding the Cañon Diablo meteorite

TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–6): Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

1. _____ of the Pueblo Indians centered on intensive agriculture.
(A) The economic activity
(B) Because the economic activity
(C) The economy was active
(D) When the economic activity
2. In popular terminology, any long snowstorm with _____ is called a blizzard.
(A) the amount of wind is large
(B) a large amount of wind
(C) it is very windy
(D) very windy
3. Nuclear power can be produced by fusion, _____ produced by fission.
(A) it can also be
(B) it can also
(C) and it can also be
(D) and it can also
4. _____, igneous rocks may be changed into gneisses.
(A) The temperature is high
(B) If the temperature is high
(C) High temperatures
(D) If high temperature
5. In 1905, Henry Flagler _____ his plans to extend his Florida East Coast Railway out across the sea to Key West.
(A) it was announced
(B) announcement
(C) the announcement of
(D) announced
6. The sound _____ from a vibrating object will be high or low depending on the number of vibrations.
(A) comes
(B) it is coming
(C) is coming
(D) coming
7. During the late 1880s, urban streetcars were electrified through _____ large motors.
(A) they used
(B) used
(C) the use of
(D) when they used
8. _____ almost 274 square miles, but 96 percent of the park is under water.
(A) Although Biscayne National Park encompasses
(B) Biscayne National Park encompasses
(C) Biscayne National Park encompassing
(D) Biscayne National Park
9. Legislation _____ in 1916 and 1917 gave the Wilson administration authority to intervene in the national economy if it proved necessary.
(A) it was passed
(B) was passed
(C) passed
(D) passes
10. Because a family of birds set up housekeeping in Joel Chandler Harris's mailbox when the birds were in need of a place to stay, _____ the Wren's Nest.
(A) the home is named
(B) so the home is named
(C) naming the home
(D) the home's name

THE WRITTEN EXPRESSION QUESTIONS

Questions 16 through 40 in the Structure and Written Expression section of the TOEFL test measure your knowledge of the correct way to express yourself in English writing. Each question in this section consists of one sentence in which four words or groups of words have been underlined. You must choose the letter of the word or group of words that is *not* correct.

Example

The result of the study are not accurate.
A B C D

If you look at the underlined words in this example, you should see that the verb *are* is not correct. The verb should be the singular *is* because the subject *result* is singular. Therefore, you should choose answer (C) because (C) is not correct.

STRATEGIES FOR THE WRITTEN EXPRESSION QUESTIONS

1. **First look at the underlined word or groups of words.** You want to see if you can spot which of the four answer choices is *not* correct.
2. **If you have been unable to find the error by looking only at the four underlined expressions, then read the complete sentence.** Often an underlined expression is incorrect because of something in another part of the sentence.
3. **Never leave any answers blank.** Be sure to answer each question even if you are unsure of the correct response.

The following skills will help you to implement these strategies in the Written Expression questions.

SKILL 11: AGREEMENT AFTER PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES _____

Subject/verb agreement is simple: if the subject of a sentence is singular, then the verb must be singular; if the subject of the sentence is plural, then the verb must be plural. An *s* on a verb usually indicates that a verb is singular, while an *s* on a noun usually indicates that the noun is plural. (Do not forget irregular plurals of nouns such as *women*, *children*, and *people*.)

The dog barks at night.

The dogs bark at night.

In the first example, the singular subject *dog* requires a singular verb, *barks*. In the second example, the plural subject *dogs* requires a plural verb, *bark*.

Sometimes prepositional phrases can come between the subject and the verb on the TOEFL test, and this can cause confusion. If the object of the preposition is singular and the subject is plural, or if the object of the preposition is plural and the subject is singular, there can be a problem in making the subject and verb agree.

The door (to the rooms) are* locked.

SINGULAR

PLURAL

The doors (to the room) is* locked.

PLURAL

SINGULAR

(* indicates an error)

In the first example, you might think that *rooms* is the subject because it comes directly in front of the verb *are*. However, *rooms* is not the subject because it is the object of the preposition *to*. The subject of the sentence is *door*, so the verb should be *is*. In the second example, you might think that *room* is the subject because it comes directly in front of the verb *is*. You should recognize in this example that *room* is not the subject because it is the object of the preposition *to*. Because the subject of the sentence is *doors*, the verb should be *are*.

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about subject/verb agreement with prepositional phrases.

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT WITH PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES		
S	(prepositional phrase)	V
When a <i>prepositional phrase</i> comes between the <i>subject</i> and the <i>verb</i> , be sure that the <i>verb</i> agrees with the <i>subject</i> .		

EXERCISE 11: Each of the following sentences has one or more prepositional phrases between the subject and verb. Put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. The subject (of the lectures) was quite interesting.
- I 2. The supplies (for the camping trip) needs to be packed.
- ___ 3. The chairs under the table in the dining room is quite comfortable.
- ___ 4. The players on the winning team in the competition were very talented.
- ___ 5. The food for the guests at the party are on the long tables.
- ___ 6. The cost of the clothes was higher than I had expected.
- ___ 7. The rugs in the front rooms of the house are going to be washed today.
- ___ 8. The servers in this restaurant always does their job efficiently.
- ___ 9. The lights in the corner of the room need to be kept on all night.
- ___ 10. The meeting of the members of the council begins at 3:00 in the afternoon.

SKILL 12: AGREEMENT AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY ___

A particular agreement problem occurs when the subject is an expression of quantity such as *all*, *most*, or *some* followed by the preposition *of*. In this situation, the subject (*all*, *most*, or *some*) can be singular or plural, depending on what follows the preposition *of*.

Most (of the *meal*) was delicious.

SINGULAR

Most (of the *meals*) were delicious.

PLURAL

Most (of the *food*) was delicious.

UNCOUNTABLE

In the first example, the subject *most* refers to the singular noun *meal*, so the correct verb is therefore the singular verb *was*. In the second example, the subject *most* refers to the plural noun *meals*, so the correct verb is the plural verb *were*. In the third example, the subject *most* refers to the uncountable noun *food*, so the correct verb is therefore the singular verb *was*.

These sentences contain examples of the types of problems that are common on the TOEFL test.

All (of the book) were* interesting.

Half (of the students) is* late to class.

In the first example, the plural verb *were* should be the singular verb *was* because the subject *all* refers to the singular noun *book*. In the second example, the singular verb *is* should be the plural verb *are* because the subject *half* refers to the plural noun *students*.

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about subject/verb agreement after expressions of quantity.

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY	
$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{all} \\ \text{most} \\ \text{some} \\ \text{half} \\ \text{part} \end{array} \right\}$	of the (object) $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ V
When an expression of quantity using <i>of</i> is the subject, the verb agrees with the object.	

EXERCISE 12: Each of the following sentences has a quantity expression as the subject. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the objects that the verbs agree with. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. Half of the students in the class arrive early.
- I 2. Some of the fruit are rotten.
- ___ 3. All of the next chapter contains very important information.
- ___ 4. Most of the people in the room is paying attention.
- ___ 5. Part of the soup is left on the stove.
- ___ 6. Some of the movie were just too violent for me.
- ___ 7. All of the details in the report needs to be checked.
- ___ 8. Most of the money is needed to pay the bills.

- ___ 9. The first half of the class consists of lecture and note taking.
- ___ 10. Some of the questions on the test was impossible to answer.

SKILL 13: AGREEMENT AFTER CERTAIN WORDS

Certain words in English are always grammatically singular, even though they might have plural meanings.

Everybody in the theater are watching* the film attentively.

Even though we understand from this example that a lot of people are watching the film, *everybody* is singular and requires a singular verb. The plural verb *are watching* should be changed to the singular verb *is watching*.

The following chart lists the grammatically singular words that have plural meanings.

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT AFTER CERTAIN WORDS				
These words or expressions are grammatically singular, so they take singular verbs:				
<i>anybody</i>	<i>everybody</i>	<i>nobody</i>	<i>somebody</i>	<i>each</i> (+ noun)
<i>anyone</i>	<i>everyone</i>	<i>no one</i>	<i>someone</i>	<i>every</i> (+ noun)
<i>anything</i>	<i>everything</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>something</i>	

EXERCISE 13: Each of the following sentences contains one of the words that is grammatically singular but has a plural meaning. Underline these words once and underline the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- ___ I 1. Anybody are welcome at the party.
- ___ C 2. No one here is afraid of skydiving.
- ___ 3. Everyone in the world needs love and respect.
- ___ 4. Someone have to clean up the house.
- ___ 5. Each plant in the garden appear healthy and strong.
- ___ 6. You should understand that anything is possible.
- ___ 7. Everything in the salad are good for you.

- _____ 8. Nobody in the class have completed the assignment on time.
- _____ 9. I am sure that every detail have been considered.
- _____ 10. Everybody know the rules, but somebody is not following them.

EXERCISE (Skills 11–13): Each of the following sentences may have a problem with subject/verb agreement. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- _____ 1. The receptionist in the entryway to the offices is able to answer your questions.
- _____ 2. All of the information in the documents are important.
- _____ 3. Anyone in one of the classes has to take the final exam.
- _____ 4. The coordinator of community services are arranging the program.
- _____ 5. Most of the car are covered with mud.
- _____ 6. Nothing more is going to be completed today.
- _____ 7. The drinks in the pitchers on the table in the ballroom is for everyone.
- _____ 8. Everybody were told to be here at 8:00, but somebody is not here.
- _____ 9. Some of the meetings at the conference are limited to ten participants.
- _____ 10. The sauce on the vegetables in the yellow bowl taste really delicious.

TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 11–13): Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

- _____ 1. Nobody know when the process of glass-making was invented.
A B C D
- _____ 2. Sugars like glucose is made up of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms.
A B C D
- _____ 3. Part of the electricity used in the United States today come from hydroelectric sources.
A B C D
- _____ 4. The languages of the world presents a vast array of structural similarities and differences.
A B C D
- _____ 5. The rise of multinationals have resulted in a great deal of legal ambiguity because multinationals can operate in so many jurisdictions.
A B C D
- _____ 6. All of the east–west interstate highways in the United States has even numbers, while north–south interstate highways are odd-numbered.
A B C D
- _____ 7. When a massive star in the large Magellanic Cloud exploded in 1987, a wave of neutrinos were detected on Earth.
A B C D
- _____ 8. Some of the agricultural practices used today is responsible for fostering desertification.
A B C D
- _____ 9. Every open space in the targeted area that has grass and a few bushes are occupied by the white-crowned sparrow.
A B C D
- _____ 10. Krakatoa is remembered as the volcano that put so much ash into the air that sunsets around the world was affected for two years afterward.
A B C D

