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SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT



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What is Subject-Verb Agreement?

- A simple subject-verb agreement definition implies that the subject of the sentence and the verb of the sentence must be in agreement in number.
- Let's take an example to understand this concept.
- Example 1: The dog is playing with his ball.
- In this case, the subject of the sentence is 'dog' and the verb used is singular in nature, 'is playing'.
- Example 2: The dogs are playing with their ball.
- In this case, the subject of the sentence is 'dogs' and the verb used is plural in nature, 'are playing'.



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Subject-Verb Agreement Rules

Let's explore a series of subject-verb agreement rules required to ace questions based on Sentence Correction.

- **RULE 1:** *When two subjects are joined by 'and', the verb is plural.*
- For example: My friend and his mother are in town.
- **RULE 2:** *When two singular nouns joined by 'and' refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.*

For example: The captain and coach of the team has been sacked.

- In case these were two different individuals, two articles need to be used: The captain and the coach of the team have been sacked.
- **RULE 3:** *Indefinite pronouns (everyone, each one, someone, somebody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody etc.) are always singular.*
- For example: Everyone is selfish.
- We do not use 'are' in this sentence.
- *This rule does not apply to: few, many, several, both, all, some.*

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- **RULE 4:** *When the percentage or a part of something is mentioned with plural meaning the plural verb is used.*
- For example: 40 of every 100 children are malnourished.
- **RULE 5:** *When the subjects joined by 'either or' or 'neither nor' are of different persons, the verb will agree in person and number with the noun nearest to it.*
- For example: Neither you nor your dogs know how to behave.
- Either of the books is fine for MAT preparation.
- Always remember that, when *either* and *neither* are used as pronouns, they are treated as singular and always take the singular verb.
- **RULE 6:** *If connectives/appositives like along with, together with, as well as, accompanied by etc. are used to combine two subjects, the verb agrees with the subject mentioned first.*
- For example: Mr. Ram, accompanied by his wife Sita and his brother, was banished to the forest.



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- **RULE 7:** *A number of/ the number of*
- 'A number of (some countable noun)' is always plural. 'The number of (some countable noun)' is always singular.
- For example: A number of students are going on the trip.
- **RULE 8:** *The singular verb form is usually used for units of measurement or time.*
- For example: Five gallons of oil was required to get the engine running.
- **RULE 9:** *When any of 'few, many, several, both, all, some' is used with a countable noun, the verb is plural.*
- For example: Some men are needed for the battle.
- **RULE 10:** *When any of 'few, many, several, both, all, some' is used with an uncountable noun, the verb is singular.*
- For example: Some milk is spoilt.
- Subject-Verb agreement is essential to make sure that a sentence is grammatically correct.

PROBLEM 1:



Following sentences supply a verb in agreement with its subject:

To take pay and then not to do work _____ dishonest.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. was
- D. were

ANS:A



PROBLEM 2:



The cost of all these articles _____ risen.

- A. had
- B. was
- C. were
- D. has

ANS:D



PROBLEM 3:



The accountant and the cashier _____ absconded.

- A. have
- B. Was
- C. were
- D. are

ANS:A



PROBLEM 4:



That night every one of the boat's crew _____ down with fever.

- A. is
- B. were
- C. was
- D. are

ANS: **C**



PROBLEM 5:



One or the other of those fellows _____ stolen the watch.

- A. have
- B. were
- C. are
- D. has

ANS:D



PROBLEM 6:



No news _____ good news.

- A. have
- B. were
- C. is
- D. are

ANS:C



PROBLEM 7:



The famous juggler and conjurer _____ too unwell to perform.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. were
- D. have

ANS:A



PROBLEM 8:



The ebb and flow of the tides _____ explained by Newton.

- A. were
- B. was
- C. are
- D. have

ANS: B



PROBLEM 9:



There _____ many objections to the plan.

- A. had
- B. were
- C. are
- D. is

ANS:C



PROBLEM 10:



Ninety rupees _____ too much for this bag.

- A. sleeps
- B. feeds
- C. walks
- D. None of these

ANS:B



PROBLEM 11:



Neither his father nor his mother _____ alive.

- a. is
- b. were
- c. are
- d. have

ANS:A



PROBLEM 12:



A good man and useful citizen _____ passed away.

- a. is
- b. has
- c. were
- d. are

ANS: **B**



PROBLEM 13:



Bread and butter served for breakfast.

- a. were
- b. are
- c. was
- d. is

ANS:C



PROBLEM 14:



My brother to be an astronaut.

- a. want
- b. wants
- c. is
- d. None of these

ANS:B



PROBLEM 15:



Her clothes made of expensive fabrics.

- a. were
- b. are
- c. is
- d. was

ANS:B



PROBLEM 16:



Neither Mala nor her parents at the party.

- a. was
- b. were
- c. are
- d. is

ANS:B



PROBLEM 17:



Either Manu or I to go.

- A. have
- B. had
- C. will
- D. has

ANS:A



PROBLEM 18:



The horse and carriage at the door.

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. have

ANS:B



PROBLEM 19:



Nobody what happened to her.

- A. know
- B. knows
- C. None of these

ANS:B



PROBLEM 20:



The cost of essential commodities gone up.

- A. were
- B. are
- C. has
- D. had

ANS:C

