

Name: _____ Date: _____

Can We Agree?

A verb should agree with its subject. In other words . . .

If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Allison *sits* alone.

Those newspapers *are* old.

Sometimes, it can be a bit tricky to figure out whether the subject is singular or plural. Here are some tips.

When the subject is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb.

My sister and I *are* going to the movies.

Use a singular verb with sums of money and periods of time.

I think two dollars *is* a good price for the cupcake.

Four hours *is* a long time to wait.

When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by *or* or *nor*, use a singular verb.

Is your mom or dad home?

The words *each*, *each one*, *either*, *neither*, *everyone*, *everybody*, *anybody*, *anyone*, *nobody*, *somebody*, *someone*, and *no one* are singular and require a singular verb.

Nobody *eats* the cake.

Collective nouns are nouns that describe a group, such as *team*, *committee*, *class*, and *family*. When all the members of the group are doing the same thing, use a singular verb.

My team *has* so much fun playing together.

When the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.

The majority of my friends *are* going to the party on Friday.

Directions: In each sentence that follows, underline the subject and circle the correct verb from the pair of bolded verbs. We did the first one for you.

1. Some T-shirts in this pile **is/are** yours.
2. Some parts of your essay **need/needs** to be revised.
3. Most of these clothes **is/are** too small for me.
4. Neither of the books I wanted **is/are** in stock.
5. All the dancers in the show **say/says** their feet hurt after a performance.

Directions: In each sentence below, circle the subject that agrees with the verb. We did the first one for you.

6. The **flower**/**flowers** in my grandmother's garden are in bloom.

7. The **sink**/**sinks** in my kitchen has a leak.

8. The **signs**/**sign** on the street seems to be incorrect.

9. The **kitten**/**kittens** in the pet store are adorable.

Directions: For each sentence below, check one of the boxes to indicate whether the verb in boldface is correct or incorrect. Then explain your answer. We've done the first one for you.

10. My teacher and her family **is** going on vacation this week. ☐ correct ☒ incorrect

Explanation: The subject is composed of two nouns (teacher and family) connected by "and."

11. Each of those desserts **looks** delicious, but I'm full. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

12. Either Rachel or Bill **are** there right now. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Know Your Homophones

Some spelling mistakes won't be caught by spell-check or autocorrect. These programs don't recognize homophone errors—*its* instead of *it's*, for example. That's why it's important to know the difference between words that sound the same or similar, and to proofread your work.

Directions: Read each sentence below. Underline the correct word in each boldface pair. If you aren't sure, use a dictionary to help you.

1. **Your/You're** backpack is so heavy!
2. William saw a **bare/bear** in the woods.
3. **There's/theirs** only one slice of pie left?
4. We didn't bring **are/our** bathing suits. We didn't think it would be warm enough to swim.
5. We went to the **new/knew** pizza place on Emery Street last night.
6. This shirt is not very comfortable. The fabric is rather **course/coarse**.
7. Brian found a few **sense/cents** under the couch cushion.
8. No wonder **you're/your** cold: You've got **bare/bear** arms!
9. Leah **new/knew** that Isabella would keep the secret.
10. If you want to talk to John and Dylan, you'd better hurry. **Their/They're** leaving in five minutes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Can We Agree?

A verb should agree with its subject. In other words . . .

If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Allison *sits* alone.

Those newspapers *are* old.

Sometimes, it can be a bit tricky to figure out whether the subject is singular or plural. Here are some tips.

When the subject is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb.

My sister and I *are* going to the movies.

Use a singular verb with sums of money and periods of time.

I think two dollars *is* a good price for the cupcake.

Four hours *is* a long time to wait.

When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by *or* or *nor*, use a singular verb.

Is your mom or dad home?

The words *each*, *each one*, *either*, *neither*, *everyone*, *everybody*, *anybody*, *anyone*, *nobody*, *somebody*, *someone*, and *no one* are singular and require a singular verb.

Nobody *eats* the cake.

Collective nouns are nouns that describe a group, such as *team*, *committee*, *class*, and *family*. When all the members of the group are doing the same thing, use a singular verb.

My team *has* so much fun playing together.

When the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.

The majority of my friends *are* going to the party on Friday.

Directions: In each sentence that follows, underline the subject and circle the correct verb from the pair of bolded verbs. We did the first one for you.

1. Some T-shirts in this pile **is/are** yours.
2. Some parts of your essay **need/needs** to be revised.
3. Most of these clothes **is/are** too small for me.
4. Neither of the books I wanted **is/are** in stock.
5. All the dancers in the show **say/says** their feet hurt after a performance.

Directions: In each sentence below, circle the subject that agrees with the verb. We did the first one for you.

6. The **flower**/**flowers** in my grandmother's garden are in bloom.

7. The **sink**/**sinks** in my kitchen has a leak.

8. The **signs**/**sign** on the street seems to be incorrect.

9. The **kitten**/**kittens** in the pet store are adorable.

Directions: For each sentence below, check one of the boxes to indicate whether the verb in boldface is correct or incorrect. Then explain your answer. We've done the first one for you.

10. My teacher and her family **is** going on vacation this week. ☐ correct ☒ incorrect

Explanation: The subject is composed of two nouns (teacher and family) connected by "and."

11. Each of those desserts **looks** delicious, but I'm full. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

12. Either Rachel or Bill **are** there right now. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Polish Your Possessives

The *possessive* form of a word shows ownership. Here are some rules to remember about forming possessives:

- 1** To make a **singular noun** (like *girl*) possessive, add an 's to the end of the noun.
For example: *the girl's dog*
Here, the possessive shows that the dog belongs to one girl.
- 2** To make a **plural noun** (like *girls*) possessive, add an ' after the s that is already at the end of the noun.
For example: *the girls' dog*
Here, the possessive shows that the dog belongs to more than one girl.
- 3** To make a **collective noun** (a noun that treats a group as one thing, like *audience*, *family*, or *team*) or a plural noun that does not end in s (like *children* or *mice*) possessive, add an 's to the end of the word, just as you would do with a singular noun.
For example: *the children's game*
Here, the possessive shows that the game belongs to more than one child.

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1. Who or what "owns" the toys in the following sentence? <i>Karla's cats' toys are all over the place.</i></p> <p>Ⓐ one cat
Ⓑ more than one cat
Ⓒ Karla
Ⓓ It is impossible to tell.</p> | <p>2. Which of the following correctly indicates that the fans belong to one team?</p> <p>Ⓐ Our teams' fans cheered loudly.
Ⓑ Our teams fan's cheered loudly.
Ⓒ Our team's fans cheered loudly.
Ⓓ Our teams's fans cheered loudly.</p> | <p>3. Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly.</p> <p>Ⓐ Taras' socks are filthy.
Ⓑ Taras socks' are filthy.
Ⓒ Tara's socks are filthy.
Ⓓ Taras socks are filthy.</p> |
|--|---|--|

Directions: Rewrite each of the following sentences by making a noun possessive. Change the wording as necessary. For example:

The hat belonging to Tanya is gigantic. ⇒ *Tanya's hat is gigantic.*

4. The jeans that belong to Curt are too loose.

5. I have the birthdays of my friends memorized.

6. The Golden Unicorn is the restaurant my family likes best.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Know Your Homophones

Some spelling mistakes won't be caught by spell-check or autocorrect. These programs don't recognize homophone errors—*its* instead of *it's*, for example. That's why it's important to know the difference between words that sound the same or similar, and to proofread your work.

Directions: Read each sentence below. Underline the correct word in each boldface pair. If you aren't sure, use a dictionary to help you.

1. **Your/You're** backpack is so heavy!
2. William saw a **bare/bear** in the woods.
3. **There's/theirs** only one slice of pie left?
4. We didn't bring **are/our** bathing suits. We didn't think it would be warm enough to swim.
5. We went to the **new/knew** pizza place on Emery Street last night.
6. This shirt is not very comfortable. The fabric is rather **course/coarse**.
7. Brian found a few **sense/cents** under the couch cushion.
8. No wonder **you're/your** cold: You've got **bare/bear** arms!
9. Leah **new/knew** that Isabella would keep the secret.
10. If you want to talk to John and Dylan, you'd better hurry. **Their/They're** leaving in five minutes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Can We Agree?

A verb should agree with its subject. In other words . . .

If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Allison *sits* alone.

Those newspapers *are* old.

Sometimes, it can be a bit tricky to figure out whether the subject is singular or plural. Here are some tips.

When the subject is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb.

My sister and I *are* going to the movies.

Use a singular verb with sums of money and periods of time.

I think two dollars *is* a good price for the cupcake.

Four hours *is* a long time to wait.

When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by *or* or *nor*, use a singular verb.

Is your mom or dad home?

Collective nouns are nouns that describe a group, such as *team*, *committee*, *class*, and *family*. When all the members of the group are doing the same thing, use a singular verb.

My team *has* so much fun playing together.

The words *each*, *each one*, *either*, *neither*, *everyone*, *everybody*, *anybody*, *anyone*, *nobody*, *somebody*, *someone*, and *no one* are singular and require a singular verb.

Nobody *eats* the cake.

When the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.

The majority of my friends *are* going to the party on Friday.

Directions: In each sentence that follows, underline the subject and circle the correct verb from the pair of bolded verbs. We did the first one for you.

1. Some T-shirts in this pile **is/are** yours.
2. Some parts of your essay **need/needs** to be revised.
3. Most of these clothes **is/are** too small for me.
4. Neither of the books I wanted **is/are** in stock.
5. All the dancers in the show **say/says** their feet hurt after a performance.

Directions: In each sentence below, circle the subject that agrees with the verb. We did the first one for you.

6. The **flower**/**flowers** in my grandmother's garden are in bloom.

7. The **sink**/**sinks** in my kitchen has a leak.

8. The **signs**/**sign** on the street seems to be incorrect.

9. The **kitten**/**kittens** in the pet store are adorable.

Directions: For each sentence below, check one of the boxes to indicate whether the verb in boldface is correct or incorrect. Then explain your answer. We've done the first one for you.

10. My teacher and her family **is** going on vacation this week. ☐ correct ☒ incorrect

Explanation: The subject is composed of two nouns (teacher and family) connected by "and."

11. Each of those desserts **looks** delicious, but I'm full. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

12. Either Rachel or Bill **are** there right now. ☐ correct ☐ incorrect

Explanation: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shifts in Person

When you write, you choose which "person," or point of view, to use. You can write in first person ("I eat" or "We eat"), second person ("You eat"), or third person ("He eats," "One eats," "They eat," etc.).

The "person" you use should remain the same throughout sentences, throughout paragraphs, and throughout the entire body of whatever you are writing—unless you have a good reason to change it.

For example:

Incorrect: For **anyone** who loves spinach, **you** are going to adore this chocolate-spinach smoothie.
The writer shifts from third person ("anyone") to second person ("you").

Correct Option 1: If **you** love spinach, **you** are going to adore this chocolate-spinach smoothie.
The whole sentence is written in second person.

Correct Option 2: **Anyone** who loves spinach will adore this chocolate-spinach smoothie.
The whole sentence is written in third person.

But sometimes it makes sense to shift the point of view in a sentence. For example:

You may think vegetables and chocolate are delicious together, but **I** am disgusted by that idea.
"You" and "I" are doing two separate things, so it makes sense to switch from second to first person.

Directions: Read each sentence below. If it contains any unnecessary shifts in person, rewrite it so that it is correct. If the shifts in person make sense and the sentence is correct, write *correct*.

1. If someone wants ice cream, you have to eat your vegetables first.

2. Ann was happy for Josh, but she also felt a little jealous, because you can't help wishing you'd won yourself.

3. A cellist who wants to be in the orchestra knows you need to practice every day.

4. We are never going to be able to do what they are asking.

5. Empathy is a person's ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes.

6. You left at six, but they stayed until nine.

7. It may be hard for a student to sleep the night before your big test, but you really need to get some rest.
