Lesson 44
Subject-Verb Agreement

Every verb must agree with its subject in person and in number. Most verbs have a different form only in the present tense; when the subject is third-person singular, an -s or -es is added to the base verb. The linking verb be is an exception. It changes form in both the present and past tenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He takes.</td>
<td>They take.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is friendly.</td>
<td>They are friendly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was ripe.</td>
<td>They were ripe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The auxiliary verbs be, have, and do change form in verb phrases to show agreement with third-person subjects.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He is running home</td>
<td>They are running home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She has arrived.</td>
<td>They have arrived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does she have a ride?</td>
<td>Do they have a ride?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 1  Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the correct verb form in parentheses.

Agriculture (remains, remain) vital to the interest of every person.

1. The United States still (produces, produce) a majority of the world’s food supply.
2. Modern farms (has, have) become more efficient than ever.
3. A new science called agribusiness (has, have) been responsible for much of the improvement.
4. Farmers (takes, take) a keen interest in market conditions and efficiency techniques.
5. One day’s work for a farmer today (equals, equal) about a week’s effort for our grandparents.
6. Scientifically balanced fertilizers (keeps, keep) the nutrients in the soil high.
8. The seeds (is, are) developed to withstand extremes in climate and disease.
9. The only product of many large companies (is, are) hybrid seeds.
10. Newly developed weed-killers (increases, increase) crop yield.
11. Efficient pest control (has, have) reduced crop loss.
12. Almost every year the yield per acre (rises, rise).
13. Computers (performs, perform) many tasks on modern farms.
14. They (records, record) statistics on crop production and even (tracks, track) the weather.
15. Despite all of these advances, the number of farms (grows, grow) smaller every year.
16. Many young people (leaves, leave) the family farm in search of another profession.
17. Large corporations (has, have) purchased many of the successful farms.
18. These huge companies (involves, involve) themselves in every facet of agriculture.
19. To some people, that practice (is, are) beneficial.
20. Others (thinks, think) it (hurts, hurt) the small farmer.

Exercise 2 Place a check (✔️) next to each sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

✔️ Many advances have been made in livestock production.

1. Fewer animals die from disease because of advances in veterinary science.
2. New antibiotics decreases the number of deaths in young animals.
3. Scientists continues to search for ways to increase the meat supply.
4. One new product are beefalo.
5. It is a cross between a cow and the American bison.
6. Some people is experimenting with ostrich farms.
7. Supermarket shelves of the future might hold packages of ostrich meat.
8. In southern states, some farmers raise alligators.
9. Many people enjoys eating the meat from alligator tails.
10. Factory farming is a popular way to raise livestock today.
11. On factory farms, buildings holds large numbers of animals in a small space.
12. This type of farming produce more meat, milk, or eggs in less time and more cheaply than on traditional farms.
13. On some factory farms, a chicken house holds as many as 100,000 chickens.
14. It takes about 1.4 hours of labor to raise 100 chickens today, compared to 16 hours in 1945.
15. Some people criticizes the use of factory farms.
16. They says it is cruel to raise animals in such confined conditions.
17. To create better breeds of livestock, some scientists experiment with animal genes.
18. This type of science is called genetic engineering.
Lesson 45
Agreement: Intervening Prepositional Phrases

When a prepositional phrase comes between the subject and the verb, do not mistake its object for the subject. The verb must agree with the subject, not with the object of a preposition.

The letters from Paul were lost in the mail. (Letters is the plural subject. Paul is the object of the preposition from and is singular. The verb, were, is plural to agree with the subject letters.)

The color of the uniforms is red and gold. (The subject, color, is singular. Uniforms is the object of the preposition and is plural. The verb, is, is singular to agree with the subject, color.)

Exercise 1 Write C in the blank if the verb agrees with its subject. Write the correct verb form if the verb does not agree with its subject.

specialize Two pet shops in town specializes in birds only.

1. My favorite of the two shops is Winged Delights.

2. Its knowledge of birds seems to be superior to the other store.

3. “My selection of feathered tropicals are the largest in town,” said Mrs. Cho, the owner.

4. My interest in pets are limited to the parrot family.

5. Brilliantly colored macaws from South America make attractive pets.

6. However, the price tag on a macaw is beyond my means.

7. The gray birds beside the cockatoo looks interesting.

8. Those in the corner are African gray parrots.

9. Their lack of color is offset by the parrots’ intelligence.

10. African grays, without question, is the best talkers in the entire parrot family.

11. What type of foods are necessary for a healthy African gray?

12. This bird, like other tropical birds, thrives on seeds, nuts, and fruit.

13. Several food mixtures of good quality are available commercially.

14. Fruits of almost any kind provides extra variety to the diet.

15. The African gray, along with its cage, were priced well within my budget.

16. My parents’ reservations about having a bird in the house is unfounded.
17. The chores of caring for the bird are readily shared by the entire family.
18. The best of all the names we considered was Nestor.
19. A parrot in our lives has proven to be a good decision.
20. Nestor, with his heart-winning antics, are becoming a member of the family.

Exercise 2  Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the correct verb form in parentheses.

Bird fanciers around the world (enjoys, enjoy) the beauty of tropical species.
1. Every variety of parrot, macaw, and cockatoo (is, are) a member of the family Psittacidae.
2. The birds of this family (varies, vary) in length from three to forty inches.
3. Other relatives in this family (includes, include) lories, cockatiels, and conures.
4. A relatively large head in proportion to the body (distinguishes, distinguish) these birds.
5. Most members of the family (has, have) short, round tails.
6. The toughest of nuts (represents, represent) little challenge for their large, hooked bills.
7. Birds in this family, without exception, (uses, use) their beaks like a third foot when climbing.
8. One of their unique features (is, are) their special feet.
9. This foot, with two toes pointing forward and two pointing backward, (gives, give) them greater dexterity than any other group of birds.
10. Most tropical regions of the world (provides, provide) suitable habitat for parrots.
11. Many temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere (houses, house) parrot families, too.
12. The lifespan of Psittacidae (averages, average) thirty to fifty years.
13. Some parrots with the ability to mimic human speech (has, have) developed extensive vocabularies.
14. The talent of talking African gray parrots (is, are) unsurpassed.
15. The owl parrots from New Zealand (is, are) nocturnal birds.
16. Of all parrots, only the kakapos (is, are) entirely flightless.
17. Measuring only three inches long, the pygmy parrots of New Guinea (represents, represent) the smallest parrots in the world.
18. Macaws with their brilliant plumage (is, are) distinguished by their pointed wings and exceptionally long tails.
Lesson 46
Agreement: Linking Verbs

A predicate nominative that is different in number from the subject can be confusing. Only the subject affects the linking verb.

The first act was jugglers. (The singular verb, was, agrees with the singular subject, act. The verb is not affected by the predicate nominative, jugglers.)

Cookies were Mike's favorite dessert. (The plural verb, were, agrees with the plural subject, cookies. The verb is not affected by the predicate nominative, dessert.)

Exercise 1 Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes the sentence.

Notes (is, are) an excellent way to remember lesson material.
1. The biggest attraction in town (remains, remain) the antique shops.
2. The team members (is, are) a pleasure to coach.
3. The mint in the Lascombe Gardens (smells, smell) good, even from two blocks away.
4. The Ramirez family (is, are) a sponsor for the event.
5. Encyclopedias (stands, stand) a ready resource for writing term papers.
6. Gold pens (was, were) the women's prize.
7. When I am trying to concentrate, a dripping faucet (becomes, become) a nuisance.
8. A truce (means, mean) no aggression for a specific time period.
9. The twins (turns, turn) sixteen in three weeks.
10. Comic strip characters (was, were) the theme at the banquet.
11. Rawhide bones (is, are) candy to my dog, Beethoven.
12. The first topic (was, were) accidents in the home.
13. Berries (is, are) a mainstay in the diets of many birds.
14. The book (was, were) a collection of short stories.
15. The captains (is, are) the leaders of the volleyball team.
16. Her entire investment (was, were) fifty dollars.
17. The clouds (appears, appear) a threat to our baseball game.
18. Parties (is, are) a good opportunity to get to know people.
19. Sophomores (has, have) twice been student council secretary.
20. The girls (shows, show) great effort even though they are far behind.
21. The consequences (is, are) worth the risk.
22. Dances (remains, remain) our favorite social activity.
23. The juniors (feels, feel) their choice for class president was a good one.
24. Pets (becomes, become) a member of the family.
25. Compliments (is, are) a gift that anyone can give.
26. Oak trees (has, have) become a symbol for strength.
27. Concrete lions (stands, stand) guardian over the library entrance.
28. Mr. Jefferson (thinks, think) these assignments are simple.
29. Apologies (seems, seem) like bitter medicine, but the results are gratifying.
30. It (appears, appear) pot-bellied pigs are gaining popularity as pets.
31. The rhythms of the percussion section (was, were) the highlight of the concert.
32. Holidays (means, mean) exciting sights and sounds.
33. Lien’s favorite Sunday breakfast (is, are) scrambled eggs.
34. Her songs (remains, remain) a hit week after week.
35. The majority of people (feels, feel) a rain shower ruins their day.
36. Hikers (is, are) the largest category of park visitors.
37. Rainbows (was, were) a spectacular sight after the thunderstorm.
38. In Japan, railroads (has, have) become the standard for mass transit.
39. Precautions (is, are) an indispensable part of safe operation.
40. Sonya (seems, seem) miles above the rest of the class.

Writing Link  Write three or four sentences describing the person you most admire. Use examples of subject-verb agreement with linking verbs and predicate nominatives in at least two of your sentences.
Lesson 47
Agreement: Inverted Sentences

An inverted sentence is one in which the subject follows the verb. Take care to locate the subject accurately, making sure that the verb agrees with it. Because an inverted sentence often begins with a prepositional phrase, the object of the preposition can be easily mistaken for the subject. Remember that the subject follows the verb in an inverted sentence.

Singular: Under the bush sits a rabbit. (The verb, sits, must agree with the subject, rabbit.)
Plural: Under the bush sit three rabbits. (The verb, sit, must agree with the subject, rabbits.)

Inverted sentences often begin with the word there or here. These words are almost never the subject of a sentence.

Singular: There is a shadow across the page. Here comes my brother.
Plural: There are cracks in the foundation. Here are five examples.

The subject in an interrogative sentence may follow an auxiliary verb. In this event, the subject will appear between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.

Singular: Does the price include tax?
Plural: Do our privileges include free admission?

Exercise 1 Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under the correct verb or helping verb in parentheses.

Beneath the water (was, were) two very hungry sharks.

1. (Is, Are) the doctor attending the sessions?
2. Under the tree (lurks, lurk) the hungry cats.
3. (Is, Are) electric vehicles becoming more popular?
4. There (goes, go) Oko’s sisters.
5. (Does, Do) he live in the mountains?
6. Inside that house (was, were) the object of my affections.
7. (Was, Were) Jamal helping with the pamphlets?
8. Beside the fence (grows, grow) black raspberries.
9. Except for Tamiko, (has, have) all the others paid the fee?
10. Here (comes, come) one of the prettiest floats in the parade.
11. (Was, Were) the basket full of apples?
12. There (is, are) only fifty tickets left.

13. (Does, Do) that dish contain peanuts?

14. On top of the car (was, were) perched three pigeons.

15. (Was, Were) the three of them excused for the day?

16. In these humble surroundings (was, were) born our sixteenth president.

17. For the boat’s deck (has, have) Benny used treated boards?

18. There (sits, sit) his forgotten papers.

19. Here (comes, come) your favorite part.

20. (Does, Do) the Joneses like golf?

**Exercise 2** Place a check (✔) next to each sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

✔  Are there any leftovers from yesterday?

1. Around the corner speeds the little terrier.

2. There walks a proud woman.

3. Is the teacher glad for the holiday break?

4. Into the yard flies the hungry birds in search of a meal.

5. Here is three copies of today’s Times.

6. Does Enrico have enough money for lunch?

7. Above the staircase was the secret passageway.

8. There is the misplaced textbook.

9. Has any other activities generated this much enthusiasm?

10. Were all of them in the car?

11. Near the pond grows a weeping willow.

12. There goes the dog in search of her missing puppy.

13. Was the views spectacular from the bridge?

14. On the fence post hangs several pieces of twine.

15. Here comes the best musicians in the world.

16. Do the players provide their own shoes?

17. Around the city speeds the delivery trucks.

18. There are many sources for the information you need.
Lesson 48
Agreement: Special Subjects

A collective noun names a group. It is considered singular when it refers to a group as a whole. It is plural when it refers to each member individually.

SINGULAR
The flock is ready to be sheared.
Our team is the best.

PLURAL
The flock are sheared one at a time.
Our team are all seniors.

Some nouns that end in -s are singular and take singular verbs.
Mumps is a painful childhood disease.

Other singular nouns ending in -s take plural verbs.
The scissors are on the shelf.

Many nouns ending in -ics may be singular or plural depending on their meaning.
Singular: Politics is a challenging field. (one type of field)
Plural: Her politics are confusing to many people. (more than one political standpoint)

Nouns of amount are singular when they refer to a total that is considered one unit. They are plural when they refer to a number of individual units.
Singular: Nine dollars is the price. (one unit)
Plural: Nine dollars were found under the bleachers. (nine individual units)

A title is always singular, even if it contains plural words.
Travels with Charley is an engrossing book. “Cycles” is my latest poem.

Exercise 1
Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

The faculty (is, are) required to return their keys on the last day of school.

1. The herd (passes, pass) through the orchard on the way to the pasture.
2. Mumps sometimes (requires, require) quarantine.
3. Eight dollars (is, are) too much to pay for that hat.
4. Statistics (is, are) a branch of mathematics.
5. The flock (is, are) preening their feathers.
6. Mark’s favorite pants (is, are) faded blue denim.
7. Several hours (was, were) wasted while we waited for Tasha.
8. The economics of South Africa (is, are) closely tied to the diamond industry.
9. The team (wins, win) frequently.
10. The scissors (needs, need) sharpening.
11. Three months (is, are) the waiting period for a license.
12. Women’s gymnastics (has, have) been dominated by adolescents for several years.
13. The class (is, are) finishing their assignments.
14. Measles (is, are) still a dangerous disease in many parts of the world.
15. Ten yards (is, are) the minimum distance for a first down.
16. Optics (deals, deal) with the changes and properties of light.
17. To keep communication lines open, the faculty (meets, meet) every week.
18. Checkers (is, are) her favorite board game.
19. Three weeks of concerts (has, have) been booked.
20. The acoustics (makes, make) this theater superior to the others.
21. Because of boredom, the audience (is, are) leaving a few at a time.
22. These binoculars (magnifies, magnify) by fifty times.
23. Six inches (makes, make) a big difference in a hemline.
24. Of all his educational pursuits, genetics (was, were) his favorite.
25. The readership of the Times (leans, lean) toward conservatism.
26. The United States (has, have) two major political parties.
27. Thirty days at hard labor (was, were) his sentence.
28. His tactics (proves, prove) he is an honorable man.
29. Canterbury Tales (describes, describe) life during the time of the Black Death.
30. Maria’s glasses (contains, contain) bifocal lenses.
31. The Toronto Maple Leaf (is, are) the name of a National Hockey League.
32. Several species (was, were) on the endangered list.
33. Most of the national news (is, are) on the front page.
34. The remains of the collapsed buildings (was, were) buried.
35. Twenty-eight days (is, are) the average gestation period for a rabbit.
36. Mathematics (requires, require) an understanding of formulas.
37. Our squadron (practices, practice) flight patterns daily.
38. The committee (has, have) signed their names on the contract.
39. The Chicago Bulls (reworks, rework) their strategy daily.
40. The Corps of Engineers (builds, build) dams and bridges.
Lesson 49
Agreement: Compound Subjects

A compound subject that is joined by and or both ... and is plural except when the joined words make a single unit or when they both refer to the same person or thing.

Singular: Cheese and crackers is a favorite snack. (compound subject as a single unit)
Her friend and mentor believes she will win the election. (friend and mentor are the same person)

Plural: The man and the woman are co-chairpersons.
Both Ali and Eduardo enjoy soccer.

When a compound subject is joined by or (or by either...or) or nor (or by neither... nor), the verb always agrees with the subject nearer the verb.

Singular: Either the coach or a player is commenting.
Singular: Neither the players nor the coach is commenting.

Plural: Neither the coach nor the players are commenting.

When many a, each, or every precedes a compound subject, the subject is singular.

Singular: Many a dog and cat has passed through the shelter.
Each boy and girl has a locker.
Every worker and supervisor is united on this issue.

Exercise 1
Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

Both Anya and Kareem like the new teacher. (like)

1. Horses, cattle, and sheep thrive on the lush pastures. (thrive)

2. My brother or my sister chooses the menus tonight. (choose)

3. Every plate and cup has a chip in it. (have)

4. Either the Hopkins family or the Ferreras watch our house when we are away. (watch)

5. Many a friend and traveler has passed this way. (have)

6. Neither Kathy nor her sisters knows about the schedule change. (know)

7. Both Dad and Mom want peace and quiet on the weekends. (want)

8. Neither Mr. Watkins nor my neighbor plants squash. (plant)

9. After the meeting, Antonio and Jalisa are riding home with me. (be)

10. Alberto or the twins are using the encyclopedia. (be)

11. Every gesture and movement means something specific. (mean)
12. Either flowers or candy makes a nice gift. (make)
13. Many a man, woman, and child feels hunger every day. (feel)
14. Neither the steers nor the cow has wandered far. (have)
15. Both robins and blue jays frequent my backyard. (frequent)
16. Neither my sister nor my brothers are willing to lend me five dollars. (be)
17. My friend and teacher accompanies me on the piano. (accompany)
18. A Nintendo or a CD player tops his Christmas list. (top)
19. Though I get very nervous on stage, every smile and nod gives me confidence. (give)
20. Either a broken string or a faulty tuning peg unnerves a violinist. (unnerve)
21. Many a teacher and student passes through these halls every day. (pass)
22. Neither Blake nor I want to lose her as a friend. (want)
23. Both the newspaper and the radio station are plugging our spring concert. (be)
24. Neither Cooper nor Longfellow is the author of The Scarlet Letter. (be)
25. Before the commencement, the chorus and the orchestra perform the national anthem. (perform)
26. Spaghetti or lasagna ranks first on my list of favorites. (rank)
27. Regardless of the cost, every letter and postcard is being answered. (be)
28. Either rain or snow causes a slowdown on the freeway. (cause)
29. After the performance, each boy and girl receives an autographed picture. (receive)
30. Neither Charlene nor Mia feels well today. (feel)
31. Both pork and beef have high levels of fat. (have)
32. Neither the store nor the restaurant opens until nine o’clock. (open)
33. Ham and eggs is a regular breakfast at our house. (be)
34. Mr. Caron or the boys are cleaning the garage. (be)
35. Every man and woman shares your concerns. (share)
36. Either my sister or my parents are picking us up after the ballgame. (be)
37. Each player and cheerleader hopes for a victory tonight. (hope)
38. Before each performance, both the actors and the stagehands check the props carefully. (check)
Lesson 50
Agreement: Intervening Expressions

Expressions such as accompanied by, as well as, in addition to, plus, and together with have a meaning similar to and but do not form a compound subject. They are a part of a phrase that modifies the subject but does not change its number.

Max, accompanied by An-Li, is on his way to the fair.
The governor, as well as his press secretary, is flying to Washington.

Exercise 1 Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

Stamp collecting, enjoyed by teenagers as well as adults, (is, are) a popular hobby.

1. Oko, together with Toby and Cara, (enjoys, enjoy) the hobby of stamp collecting.
2. They, plus other members of their families, (spends, spend) a lot of time on their hobby.
3. Oko, along with her parents, (collects, collect) only Japanese stamps.
4. The beauty of stamps, plus the large variety, (is, are) the reason that Toby prefers a general collection.
5. Cara, as a horse-lover, (likes, like) to collect stamps depicting horses.
6. Cara, together with her two friends, (wants, want) to join a local philatelic society.
7. Philately, as most collectors know, (is, are) another name for stamp collecting.
8. Dabblers, along with serious collectors, (meets, meet) monthly to share their hobby with others who have similar interests.
9. The president, plus nine other members, (collects, collect) only stamps with unusual cancellations.
10. One member, along with his son, (has, have) a collection of nearly 50,000 stamps.
11. Locating sources for new stamps, along with trading or selling duplicates, (ranks, rank) as a practical benefit of membership.
12. Annually the society, together with local stamp clubs, (sponsors, sponsor) an exhibition of the members’ collections.
13. Cara, along with Oko and Toby, (hopes, hope) to attend the show this year.
14. Every Saturday, Oko, accompanied by Toby, (visits, visit) the local stamp store.
15. The shop, besides stocking supplies and accessories, (carries, carry) a large selection of stamps.
16. A set of six stamps from Zimbabwe, along with a single issue from Brazil, (has, have) captured Toby’s attention.

17. The set, plus some new display mounts, (costs, cost) about fifteen dollars.

18. A 1967 Japanese stamp, as well as a 1988 air mail stamp, (catches, catch) Oko’s eye.

19. Many of Toby’s friends, including Consuelo, (is, are) now asking for help in starting a collection.

20. The great variety of subjects, together with the hobby’s adaptability to individual interests, (provides, provide) a lifelong pastime.

Exercise 2 Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

Many other things, in addition to stamps, __________ fun to collect. (be)

1. Young children, as well as older children, often __________ collecting leaves or rocks. (like)

2. Having fun, plus putting things into categories, __________ children to learn. (help)

3. Many serious collectors, together with not-so-serious collectors, __________ things they have a special interest in. (collect)

4. An interest in sports, accompanied by a love of baseball, __________ baseball card collectors. (drive)

5. Ball caps, in addition to T-shirts, __________ the interest of other sports enthusiasts. (draw)

6. Animal figures, as well as stuffed animals, __________ the interest of some collectors. (draw)

7. Many a stuffed rabbit, together with stuffed bears and pigs, __________ become part of a collection. (have)

8. Something a person likes to do, such as riding horses or listening to music, often __________ interest in collecting. (spark)

9. Many people who like music, in addition to going to concerts, __________ autographs. (collect)

10. A special poster, together with old photos, __________ interesting to someone who likes old movies. (be)

11. Much of the excitement, as well as the fun, __________ from the discovery of a new item. (come)

12. Something rare, plus something unusual, __________ most collectors. (excite)
Lesson 51
Agreement: Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

When an indefinite pronoun is used as a subject, its verb must agree with it in number. Indefinite pronouns can be grouped into three categories.

**INDEFINITE PRONOUNS**

**ALWAYS SINGULAR:** each, anything, nothing, everything, one, something, everyone, either, someone, anyone, no one, nobody, everybody, neither, somebody, anybody

Examples: After the inspection, everything was in its place. No one wants to go first.

**ALWAYS PLURAL:** several, many, few, both

Examples: Few are ready for the examination. Several of the townspeople are planning to attend.

**SINGULAR OR PLURAL:** some, most, all, none, any

Examples: Most of the team is healthy. (Most refers to team, which is singular.) Most of the sophomores attend the class meeting. (Most refers to sophomores, which is plural.)

**Exercise 1** Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

1. A few of my friends __________ like anchovies. (like)
2. Some of the puppies __________ constantly. (whine)
3. Everybody in the two towns __________ about the rivalry. (know)
4. Somebody in the bleachers __________ constantly. (scream)
5. Neither of the boys __________ the key to the house. (have)
6. Most of the band __________ regularly. (practice)
7. Everybody in the auditorium __________ patiently for the opening curtain. (wait)
8. Several of my friends __________ a computer with ease. (operate)
9. During a test, nobody __________ the room. (leave)
10. All of the blackberries __________ picked. (be)
11. __________ anyone show signs of fatigue? (do)
12. Someone with very large feet __________ through the flower bed. (walk)
13. Because information is lacking, none of the committee _______ to vote on the issue today. (want)

14. No matter what Chandra thinks, either of the candidates _______ qualified. (be)

15. Everyone for miles around _______ in the Oktoberfest. (participate)

16. Something about that person _______ Tia to be suspicious. (cause)

17. If you need more information, any of the clerks _______ the expertise to help you. (have)

18. One of the cockatiels _______ twice every year. (molt)

19. We should be there on time, if everything _______ well. (go)

20. Since the tornado, many people _______ thunderstorms. (fear)

21. After lunch, all of the class _______ sleepy. (feel)

22. Nothing about the situation _______ a sense of security. (foster)

23. Anything that is broken _______ our sense of security. (need)

24. During the concert, each of the four Garcias _______ a solo. (sing)

25. Most of the neighbors _______ spending time together. (enjoy)

26. Any of the leftover food _______ stored in the refrigerator. (be)

27. Because we are so busy, no one _______ a break. (take)

28. Nobody _______ that kind of treatment. (expect)

29. After the siren sounds, all of the force _______ alert. (be)

30. Due to all the changes, few of the girls _______ confident about the contest. (feel)

31. None of the class _______ a perfect attendance record. (maintain)

32. Either of those necklaces _______ this outfit. (match)

33. None of the disks _______ formatting. (require)

34. Of the two chapters, neither _______ difficult material. (contain)

35. Once the schedule is set, both of the part-timers _______ to be on time. (try)

36. Few of the players _______ a beard. (wear)

37. Any of the squad _______ fully certified in first aid. (be)

38. Some of the drivers _______ the yellow flashing light. (ignore)

39. Within our class, everyone _______ the new teacher. (like)

40. Several of the musicians _______ in a local band. (play)
Unit 7: Subject-Verb Agreement

Lesson 44
Subject-Verb Agreement

Every verb must agree with its subject in person and in number. Most verbs have a different form only in the present tense; when the subject is third-person singular, an -s or -es is added to the base verb. The linking verb be is an exception. It changes form in both the present and past tenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He takes.</td>
<td>They take.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is friendly.</td>
<td>They are friendly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was ripe.</td>
<td>They were ripe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The auxiliary verbs be, have, and do change form in verb phrases to show agreement with third-person subjects.

| He is running home            | They are running home.     |
| She has arrived.              | They have arrived.         |
| Does she have a ride?         | Do they have a ride?       |

Exercise 1 Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the correct verb form in parentheses.

Agriculture (remains, remain) vital to the interest of every person.

1. The United States still (produces, produce) a majority of the world’s food supply.

2. Modern farms (has, have) become more efficient than ever.

3. A new science called agribusiness (has, have) been responsible for much of the improvement.

4. Farmers (takes, take) a keen interest in market conditions and efficiency techniques.

5. One day’s work for a farmer today (equals, equal) about a week’s effort for our grandparents.

6. Scientifically balanced fertilizers (keeps, keep) the nutrients in the soil high.


8. The seeds (is, are) developed to withstand extremes in climate and disease.

9. The only product of many large companies (is, are) hybrid seeds.

10. Newly developed weed-killers (increases, increase) crop yield.

11. Efficient pest control (has, have) reduced crop loss.

12. Almost every year the yield per acre (rises, rise).
13. Computers (performs, perform) many tasks on modern farms.
14. They (records, record) statistics on crop production and even (tracks, track) the weather.
15. Despite all of these advances, the number of farms (grows, grow) smaller every year.
16. Many young people (leaves, leave) the family farm in search of another profession.
17. Large corporations (has, have) purchased many of the successful farms.
18. These huge companies (involves, involve) themselves in every facet of agriculture.
19. To some people, that practice (is, are) beneficial.
20. Others (thinks, think) it (hurts, hurt) the small farmer.

Exercise 2  Place a check (✔) next to each sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

✔ Many advances have been made in livestock production.

✔  1. Fewer animals die from disease because of advances in veterinary science.

  ✔  2. New antibiotics decreases the number of deaths in young animals.

  ✔  3. Scientists continues to search for ways to increase the meat supply.

  ✔  4. One new product are beefalo.

  ✔  5. It is a cross between a cow and the American bison.

  ✔  6. Some people is experimenting with ostrich farms.

  ✔  7. Supermarket shelves of the future might hold packages of ostrich meat.

  ✔  8. In southern states, some farmers raise alligators.

  ✔  9. Many people enjoys eating the meat from alligator tails.

  ✔  10. Factory farming is a popular way to raise livestock today.

  ✔  11. On factory farms, buildings holds large numbers of animals in a small space.

  ✔  12. This type of farming produce more meat, milk, or eggs in less time and more cheaply than on traditional farms.

  ✔  13. On some factory farms, a chicken house holds as many as 100,000 chickens.

  ✔  14. It takes about 1.4 hours of labor to raise 100 chickens today, compared to 16 hours in 1945.

  ✔  15. Some people criticizes the use of factory farms.

  ✔  16. They says it is cruel to raise animals in such confined conditions.

  ✔  17. To create better breeds of livestock, some scientists experiment with animal genes.

  ✔  18. This type of science is called genetic engineering.
Lesson 45
Agreement: Intervening Prepositional Phrases

When a prepositional phrase comes between the subject and the verb, do not mistake its object for the subject. The verb must agree with the subject, not with the object of a preposition.

The letters from Paul were lost in the mail. (Letters is the plural subject. Paul is the object of the preposition from and is singular. The verb, were, is plural to agree with the subject letters.)

The color of the uniforms is red and gold. (The subject, color, is singular. Uniforms is the object of the preposition and is plural. The verb, is, is singular to agree with the subject, color.)

Exercise 1 Write C in the blank if the verb agrees with its subject. Write the correct verb form if the verb does not agree with its subject.

specialize

Two pet shops in town specializes in birds only.

C 1. My favorite of the two shops is Winged Delights.

C 2. Its knowledge of birds seems to be superior to the other store.

is 3. “My selection of feathered tropicals are the largest in town,” said Mrs. Cho, the owner.

is 4. My interest in pets are limited to the parrot family.

C 5. Brilliantly colored macaws from South America make attractive pets.

C 6. However, the price tag on a macaw is beyond my means.

look 7. The gray birds beside the cockatoo looks interesting.

C 8. Those in the corner are African gray parrots.

C 9. Their lack of color is offset by the parrots’ intelligence.

are 10. African grays, without question, is the best talkers in the entire parrot family.

is 11. What type of foods are necessary for a healthy African gray?

C 12. This bird, like other tropical birds, thrives on seeds, nuts, and fruit.

C 13. Several food mixtures of good quality are available commercially.

provide 14. Fruits of almost any kind provides extra variety to the diet.

was 15. The African gray, along with its cage, were priced well within my budget.

are 16. My parents’ reservations about having a bird in the house is unfounded.
17. The chores of caring for the bird are readily shared by the entire family.

18. The best of all the names we considered was Nestor.

19. A parrot in our lives has proven to be a good decision.

20. Nestor, with his heart-winning antics, are becoming a member of the family.

Exercise 2  Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the correct verb form in parentheses.

Bird fanciers around the world (enjoys, enjoy) the beauty of tropical species.

1. Every variety of parrot, macaw, and cockatoo (is, are) a member of the family Psittacidae.

2. The birds of this family (varies, vary) in length from three to forty inches.

3. Other relatives in this family (includes, include) lories, cockatiels, and conures.

4. A relatively large head in proportion to the body (distinguishes, distinguish) these birds.

5. Most members of the family (has, have) short, round tails.

6. The toughest of nuts (represents, represent) little challenge for their large, hooked bills.

7. Birds in this family, without exception, (uses, use) their beaks like a third foot when climbing.

8. One of their unique features (is, are) their special feet.

9. This foot, with two toes pointing forward and two pointing backward, (gives, give) them greater dexterity than any other group of birds.

10. Most tropical regions of the world (provides, provide) suitable habitat for parrots.

11. Many temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere (houses, house) parrot families, too.

12. The lifespan of Psittacidae (averages, average) thirty to fifty years.

13. Some parrots with the ability to mimic human speech (has, have) developed extensive vocabularies.

14. The talent of talking African gray parrots (is, are) unsurpassed.

15. The owl parrots from New Zealand (is, are) nocturnal birds.

16. Of all parrots, only the kakapos (is, are) entirely flightless.

17. Measuring only three inches long, the pygmy parrots of New Guinea (represents, represent) the smallest parrots in the world.

18. Macaws with their brilliant plumage (is, are) distinguished by their pointed wings and exceptionally long tails.
Lesson 46
Agreement: Linking Verbs

A predicate nominative that is different in number from the subject can be confusing. Only the subject affects the linking verb.

The first act was jugglers. (The singular verb, was, agrees with the singular subject, act. The verb is not affected by the predicate nominative, jugglers.) Cookies were Mike’s favorite dessert. (The plural verb, were, agrees with the plural subject, cookies. The verb is not affected by the predicate nominative, dessert.)

Exercise 1 Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes the sentence.

Notes (is, are) an excellent way to remember lesson material.

1. The biggest attraction in town (remains, remain) the antique shops.
2. The team members (is, are) a pleasure to coach.
3. The mint in the Lascombe Gardens (smells, smell) good, even from two blocks away.
4. The Ramirez family (is, are) a sponsor for the event.
5. Encyclopedias (stands, stand) a ready resource for writing term papers.
6. Gold pens (was, were) the women’s prize.
7. When I am trying to concentrate, a dripping faucet (becomes, become) a nuisance.
8. A truce (means, mean) no aggression for a specific time period.
9. The twins (turns, turn) sixteen in three weeks.
10. Comic strip characters (was, were) the theme at the banquet.
11. Rawhide bones (is, are) candy to my dog, Beethoven.
12. The first topic (was, were) accidents in the home.
13. Berries (is, are) a mainstay in the diets of many birds.
14. The book (was, were) a collection of short stories.
15. The captains (is, are) the leaders of the volleyball team.
16. Her entire investment (was, were) fifty dollars.
17. The clouds (appears, appear) a threat to our baseball game.
18. Parties (is, are) a good opportunity to get to know people.
19. Sophomores (has, have) twice been student council secretary.
20. The girls (shows, show) great effort even though they are far behind.
21. The consequences (is, are) worth the risk.
22. Dances (remains, remain) our favorite social activity.
23. The juniors (feels, feel) their choice for class president was a good one.
24. Pets (becomes, become) a member of the family.
25. Compliments (is, are) a gift that anyone can give.
26. Oak trees (has, have) become a symbol for strength.
27. Concrete lions (stands, stand) guardian over the library entrance.
28. Mr. Jefferson (thinks, think) these assignments are simple.
29. Apologies (seems, seem) like bitter medicine, but the results are gratifying.
30. It (appears, appear) pot-bellied pigs are gaining popularity as pets.
31. The rhythms of the percussion section (was, were) the highlight of the concert.
32. Holidays (means, mean) exciting sights and sounds.
33. Lien’s favorite Sunday breakfast (is, are) scrambled eggs.
34. Her songs (remains, remain) a hit week after week.
35. The majority of people (feels, feel) a rain shower ruins their day.
36. Hikers (is, are) the largest category of park visitors.
37. Rainbows (was, were) a spectacular sight after the thunderstorm.
38. In Japan, railroads (has, have) become the standard for mass transit.
39. Precautions (is, are) an indispensable part of safe operation.
40. Sonya (seems, seem) miles above the rest of the class.

► Writing Link  Write three or four sentences describing the person you most admire. Use examples of subject-verb agreement with linking verbs and predicate nominatives in at least two of your sentences.

______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Grammar
Lesson 47
Agreement: Inverted Sentences

An inverted sentence is one in which the subject follows the verb. Take care to locate the subject accurately, making sure that the verb agrees with it. Because an inverted sentence often begins with a prepositional phrase, the object of the preposition can be easily mistaken for the subject. Remember that the subject follows the verb in an inverted sentence.

Singular: Under the bush sits a rabbit. (The verb, sits, must agree with the subject, rabbit.)
Plural: Under the bush sit three rabbits. (The verb, sit, must agree with the subject, rabbits.)

Inverted sentences often begin with the word there or here. These words are almost never the subject of a sentence.

Singular: There is a shadow across the page. Here comes my brother.
Plural: There are cracks in the foundation. Here are five examples.

The subject in an interrogative sentence may follow an auxiliary verb. In this event, the subject will appear between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.

Singular: Does the price include tax?
Plural: Do our privileges include free admission?

Exercise 1 Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under the correct verb or helping verb in parentheses.

Beneath the water (was, were) two very hungry sharks.

1. (Is, Are) the doctor attending the sessions?
2. Under the tree (lurks, lurk) the hungry cats.
3. (Is, Are) electric vehicles becoming more popular?
4. There (goes, go) Oko’s sisters.
5. (Does, Do) he live in the mountains?
6. Inside that house (was, were) the object of my affections.
7. (Was, Were) Jamal helping with the pamphlets?
8. Beside the fence (grows, grow) black raspberries.
9. Except for Tamiko, (has, have) all the others paid the fee?
10. Here (comes, come) one of the prettiest floats in the parade.
11. (Was, Were) the basket full of apples?
12. There (is, are) only fifty tickets left.
13. (Does, Do) that dish contain peanuts?
14. On top of the car (was, were) perched three pigeons.
15. (Was, Were) the three of them excused for the day?
16. In these humble surroundings (was, were) born our sixteenth president.
17. For the boat’s deck (has, have) Benny used treated boards?
18. There (sits, sit) his forgotten papers.
19. Here (comes, come) your favorite part.
20. (Does, Do) the Joneses like golf?

Exercise 2 Place a check (✔) next to each sentence in which the subject and verb agree.

✔ Are there any leftovers from yesterday?

✔ 1. Around the corner speeds the little terrier.

✔ 2. There walks a proud woman.

✔ 3. Is the teachers glad for the holiday break?

✔ 4. Into the yard flies the hungry birds in search of a meal.

✔ 5. Here is three copies of today’s Times.

✔ 6. Does Enrico have enough money for lunch?

✔ 7. Above the staircase was the secret passageway.

✔ 8. There is the misplaced textbook.

✔ 9. Has any other activities generated this much enthusiasm?

✔ 10. Were all of them in the car?

✔ 11. Near the pond grows a weeping willow.

✔ 12. There goes the dog in search of her missing puppy.

✔ 13. Was the views spectacular from the bridge?

✔ 14. On the fence post hangs several pieces of twine.

✔ 15. Here comes the best musicians in the world.

✔ 16. Do the players provide their own shoes?

✔ 17. Around the city speeds the delivery trucks.

✔ 18. There are many sources for the information you need.
Lesson 48
Agreement: Special Subjects

A **collective noun** names a group. It is considered singular when it refers to a group as a whole. It is plural when it refers to each member individually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <em>flock</em> is ready to be sheared.</td>
<td>The <em>flock</em> are sheared one at a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our <em>team</em> is the best.</td>
<td>Our <em>team</em> are all seniors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some nouns that end in *-s* are singular and take singular verbs.

**Mumps** is a painful childhood disease.

Other singular nouns ending in *-s* take plural verbs.

**The scissors are** on the shelf.

Many nouns ending in *-ics* may be singular or plural depending on their meaning.

Singular: **Politics** is a challenging field. (one type of field)
Plural: Her **politics** are confusing to many people. (more than one political standpoint)

Nouns of amount are singular when they refer to a total that is considered one unit. They are plural when they refer to a number of individual units.

Singular: Nine **dollars** is the price. (one unit)
Plural: Nine **dollars were found** under the bleachers. (nine individual units)

A title is always singular, even if it contains plural words.

*Travels with Charley* is an engrossing book.  
“Cycles” is my latest poem.

▶ **Exercise 1** Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

The faculty *(is, are)* required to return their keys on the last day of school.

1. The herd *(passes, pass)* through the orchard on the way to the pasture.
2. Mumps sometimes *(requires, require)* quarantine.
3. Eight dollars *(is, are)* too much to pay for that hat.
4. Statistics *(is, are)* a branch of mathematics.
5. The flock *(is, are)* preening their feathers.
6. Mark’s favorite pants *(is, are)* faded blue denim.
7. Several hours *(was, were)* wasted while we waited for Tasha.
8. The economics of South Africa *(is, are)* closely tied to the diamond industry.
9. The team *(wins, win)* frequently.
10. The scissors (needs, need) sharpening.
11. Three months (is, are) the waiting period for a license.
12. Women's gymnastics (has, have) been dominated by adolescents for several years.
13. The class (is, are) finishing their assignments.
14. Measles (is, are) still a dangerous disease in many parts of the world.
15. Ten yards (is, are) the minimum distance for a first down.
16. Optics (deals, deal) with the changes and properties of light.
17. To keep communication lines open, the faculty (meets, meet) every week.
18. Checkers (is, are) her favorite board game.
19. Three weeks of concerts (has, have) been booked.
20. The acoustics (makes, make) this theater superior to the others.
21. Because of boredom, the audience (is, are) leaving a few at a time.
22. These binoculars (magnifies, magnify) by fifty times.
23. Six inches (makes, make) a big difference in a hemline.
24. Of all his educational pursuits, genetics (was, were) his favorite.
25. The readership of the Times (leans, lean) toward conservatism.
26. The United States (has, have) two major political parties.
27. Thirty days at hard labor (was, were) his sentence.
28. His tactics (proves, prove) he is an honorable man.
29. Canterbury Tales (describes, describe) life during the time of the Black Death.
30. Maria's glasses (contains, contain) bifocal lenses.
31. The Toronto Maple Leaf (is, are) the name of a National Hockey League.
32. Several species (was, were) on the endangered list.
33. Most of the national news (is, are) on the front page.
34. The remains of the collapsed buildings (was, were) buried.
35. Twenty-eight days (is, are) the average gestation period for a rabbit.
36. Mathematics (requires, require) an understanding of formulas.
37. Our squadron (practices, practice) flight patterns daily.
38. The committee (has, have) signed their names on the contract.
39. The Chicago Bulls (reworks, rework) their strategy daily.
40. The Corps of Engineers (builds, build) dams and bridges.
Lesson 49
Agreement: Compound Subjects

A compound subject that is joined by and or both ... and is plural except when the joined words make a single unit or when they both refer to the same person or thing.

Singular: Cheese and crackers is a favorite snack. (compound subject as a single unit)
   Her friend and mentor believes she will win the election. (friend and mentor are the same person)
Plural: The man and the woman are co-chairpersons.
   Both Ali and Eduardo enjoy soccer.

When a compound subject is joined by or (or by either...or) or nor (or by neither...nor), the verb always agrees with the subject nearer the verb.

Singular: Either the coach or a player is commenting.
Singular: Neither the players nor the coach is commenting.
Plural: Neither the coach nor the players are commenting.

When many a, each, or every precedes a compound subject, the subject is singular.

Singular: Many a dog and cat has passed through the shelter.
   Each boy and girl has a locker.
   Every worker and supervisor is united on this issue.

Exercise 1 Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

   Both Anya and Kareem like the new teacher. (like)
1. Horses, cattle, and sheep thrive on the lush pastures. (thrive)
2. My brother or my sister chooses the menus tonight. (choose)
3. Every plate and cup has a chip in it. (have)
4. Either the Hopkins family or the Ferreras watch our house when we are away. (watch)
5. Many a friend and traveler has passed this way. (have)
6. Neither Kathy nor her sisters knows about the schedule change. (know)
7. Both Dad and Mom want peace and quiet on the weekends. (want)
8. Neither Mr. Watkins nor my neighbor plants squash. (plant)
9. After the meeting, Antonio and Jalisa are riding home with me. (be)
10. Alberto or the twins are using the encyclopedia. (be)
11. Every gesture and movement means something specific. (mean)
12. Either flowers or candy makes a nice gift. (make)
13. Many a man, woman, and child feels hunger every day. (feel)
14. Neither the steers nor the cow has wandered far. (have)
15. Both robins and blue jays frequent my backyard. (frequent)
16. Neither my sister nor my brothers are willing to lend me five dollars. (be)
17. My friend and teacher accompanies me on the piano. (accompany)
18. A Nintendo or a CD player tops his Christmas list. (top)
19. Though I get very nervous on stage, every smile and nod gives me confidence. (give)
20. Either a broken string or a faulty tuning peg unnerves a violinist. (unnerve)
21. Many a teacher and student passes through these halls every day. (pass)
22. Neither Blake nor I want to lose her as a friend. (want)
23. Both the newspaper and the radio station are plugging our spring concert. (be)
24. Neither Cooper nor Longfellow is the author of The Scarlet Letter. (be)
25. Before the commencement, the chorus and the orchestra perform the national anthem. (perform)
26. Spaghetti or lasagna ranks first on my list of favorites. (rank)
27. Regardless of the cost, every letter and postcard is being answered. (be)
28. Either rain or snow causes a slowdown on the freeway. (cause)
29. After the performance, each boy and girl receives an autographed picture. (receive)
30. Neither Charlene nor Mia feels well today. (feel)
31. Both pork and beef have high levels of fat. (have)
32. Neither the store nor the restaurant opens until nine o’clock. (open)
33. Ham and eggs is a regular breakfast at our house. (be)
34. Mr. Caron or the boys are cleaning the garage. (be)
35. Every man and woman shares your concerns. (share)
36. Either my sister or my parents are picking us up after the ballgame. (be)
37. Each player and cheerleader hopes for a victory tonight. (hope)
38. Before each performance, both the actors and the stagehands check the props carefully. (check)
Lesson 50
Agreement: Intervening Expressions

Expressions such as accompanied by, as well as, in addition to, plus, and together with have a meaning similar to and but do not form a compound subject. They are a part of a phrase that modifies the subject but does not change its number.

Max, accompanied by An-Li, is on his way to the fair.
The governor, as well as his press secretary, is flying to Washington.

Exercise 1 Underline the verb in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

Stamp collecting, enjoyed by teenagers as well as adults, (is, are) a popular hobby.
1. Oko, together with Toby and Cara, (enjoys, enjoy) the hobby of stamp collecting.
2. They, plus other members of their families, (spends, spend) a lot of time on their hobby.
3. Oko, along with her parents, (collects, collect) only Japanese stamps.
4. The beauty of stamps, plus the large variety, (is, are) the reason that Toby prefers a general collection.
5. Cara, as a horse-lover, (likes, like) to collect stamps depicting horses.
6. Cara, together with her two friends, (wants, want) to join a local philatelic society.
7. Philately, as most collectors know, (is, are) another name for stamp collecting.
8. Dabblers, along with serious collectors, (meets, meet) monthly to share their hobby with others who have similar interests.
9. The president, plus nine other members, (collects, collect) only stamps with unusual cancellations.
10. One member, along with his son, (has, have) a collection of nearly 50,000 stamps.
11. Locating sources for new stamps, along with trading or selling duplicates, (ranks, rank) as a practical benefit of membership.
12. Annually the society, together with local stamp clubs, (sponsors, sponsor) an exhibition of the members’ collections.
13. Cara, along with Oko and Toby, (hopes, hope) to attend the show this year.
14. Every Saturday, Oko, accompanied by Toby, (visits, visit) the local stamp store.
15. The shop, besides stocking supplies and accessories, (carries, carry) a large selection of stamps.
16. A set of six stamps from Zimbabwe, along with a single issue from Brazil, (has, have) captured Toby’s attention.

17. The set, plus some new display mounts, (costs, cost) about fifteen dollars.

18. A 1967 Japanese stamp, as well as a 1988 air mail stamp, (catches, catch) Oko’s eye.

19. Many of Toby’s friends, including Consuelo, (is, are) now asking for help in starting a collection.

20. The great variety of subjects, together with the hobby’s adaptability to individual interests, (provides, provide) a lifelong pastime.

Exercise 2 Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

Many other things, in addition to stamps, __________ fun to collect. (be)

1. Young children, as well as older children, often __________ collecting leaves or rocks. (like)

2. Having fun, plus putting things into categories, __________ children to learn. (help)

3. Many serious collectors, together with not-so-serious collectors, __________ things they have a special interest in. (collect)

4. An interest in sports, accompanied by a love of baseball, __________ baseball card collectors. (drive)

5. Ball caps, in addition to T-shirts, __________ the interest of other sports enthusiasts. (draw)

6. Animal figures, as well as stuffed animals, __________ the interest of some collectors. (draw)

7. Many a stuffed rabbit, together with stuffed bears and pigs, __________ become part of a collection. (have)

8. Something a person likes to do, such as riding horses or listening to music, often __________ interest in collecting. (spark)

9. Many people who like music, in addition to going to concerts, __________ autographs. (collect)

10. A special poster, together with old photos, __________ interesting to someone who likes old movies. (be)

11. Much of the excitement, as well as the fun, __________ from the discovery of a new item. (come)

12. Something rare, plus something unusual, __________ most collectors. (excite)
Lesson 51
Agreement: Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

When an indefinite pronoun is used as a subject, its verb must agree with it in number. Indefinite pronouns can be grouped into three categories.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

ALWAYS SINGULAR: each, anything, nothing, everything, one, something, everyone, either, someone, anyone, no one, nobody, everybody, neither, somebody, anybody

Examples: After the inspection, everything was in its place. No one wants to go first.

ALWAYS PLURAL: several, many, few, both

Examples: Few are ready for the examination. Several of the townspeople are planning to attend.

SINGULAR OR PLURAL: some, most, all, none, any

Examples: Most of the team is healthy. (Most refers to team, which is singular.) Most of the sophomores attend the class meeting. (Most refers to sophomores, which is plural.)

Exercise 1 Complete each sentence by writing the correct present-tense form of the verb indicated.

A few of my friends like anchovies. (like)

1. Some of the puppies whine constantly. (whine)

2. Everybody in the two towns knows about the rivalry. (know)

3. Somebody in the bleachers screams constantly. (scream)

4. Neither of the boys has the key to the house. (have)

5. Most of the band practices regularly. (practice)

6. Everybody in the auditorium waits patiently for the opening curtain. (wait)

7. Several of my friends operate a computer with ease. (operate)

8. During a test, nobody leaves the room. (leave)

9. All of the blackberries are picked. (be)

10. No one regrets choosing him as captain. (regret)

11. Does anyone show signs of fatigue? (do)

12. Someone with very large feet walks through the flower bed. (walk)
13. Because information is lacking, none of the committee ________ to vote on the issue today. (want)

14. No matter what Chandra thinks, either of the candidates ________ qualified. (be)

15. Everyone for miles around ________ in the Oktoberfest. (participate)

16. Something about that person ________ Tia to be suspicious. (cause)

17. If you need more information, any of the clerks ________ the expertise to help you. (have)

18. One of the cockatiels ________ twice every year. (molt)

19. We should be there on time, if everything ________ well. (go)

20. Since the tornado, many people ________ thunderstorms. (fear)

21. After lunch, all of the class ________ sleepy. (feel)

22. Nothing about the situation ________ a sense of security. (foster)

23. Anything that is broken ________ our immediate attention. (need)

24. During the concert, each of the four Garcias ________ a solo. (sing)

25. Most of the neighbors ________ spending time together. (enjoy)

26. Any of the leftover food ________ stored in the refrigerator. (be)

27. Because we are so busy, no one ________ a break. (take)

28. Nobody ________ that kind of treatment. (expect)

29. After the siren sounds, all of the force ________ on alert. (be)

30. Due to all the changes, few of the girls ________ confident about the contest. (feel)

31. None of the class ________ a perfect attendance record. (maintain)

32. Either of those necklaces ________ this outfit. (match)

33. None of the disks ________ formatting. (require)

34. Of the two chapters, neither ________ difficult material. (contain)

35. Once the schedule is set, both of the part-timers ________ to be on time. (try)

36. Few of the players ________ a beard. (wear)

37. Any of the squad ________ fully certified in first aid. (be)

38. Some of the drivers ________ the yellow flashing light. (ignore)

39. Within our class, everyone ________ the new teacher. (like)

40. Several of the musicians ________ in a local band. (play)