

AP English 12
Dr. Busonik
Sunday, August 23, 2015

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice

Grammar

Subject-verb agreement

Covered on Monday, 8/24

Verbs should agree with their subjects in number. It's important not to be distracted by intervening prepositional phrases or subordinate clauses.

Phrases such as *together with*, *as well as*, and *along with* do not entail a plural verb. Thus it's correct to say *John as well as Joe is talented*.

The pronouns *none*, *neither* and *either* are singular and require singular verbs.

The conjunction *or* entails agreement with the noun closest to the verb. Thus both of the following are correct: *The manager or the employees are working efficiently*; *The employees or the manager is working efficiently*.

Some words end in -s and appear to be plural but are really singular and require singular verbs--e.g., *sports*, *news*, *measles*, *politics* are all singular.

The words *there* and *here* are never subjects. With these constructions (called expletive constructions), the subject follows the verb but still determines the number of the verb.

Wrong: The books is still at the library.

Friends and family is all that really matters to me.

Either my father or my brothers is responsible.

One of the boys were standing near the fire alarm when it went off.

The department members but not the chair has decided not to teach on Valentine's Day. (Plural subject, negative counterpart)

There has to be some people left in that town after yesterday's flood.

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Right or Wrong? Why?

1. Anyone who ate the oysters were asked to visit the infirmary.

2. The mayor as well as his brothers is going to prison.

3. The tornadoes that tear through this county every spring is more than just a nuisance.

4. The team captain as well as his players is anxious about the upcoming playoffs.

5. Someone at the stables groom the horses every morning.

6. Either string beans or broccoli are my favorite vegetable.

7. Carlos is one of those students who has lived up to the potential described in the yearbook.
