

## Subject-Verb Agreement – Exercise 5

This handout accompanies Exercise 5 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

**Directions:** Choose the correct *present tense* verb form for the sentences below.

1. The dead trees and peeling paint, along with the broken windows and flapping shutters, \_\_\_\_\_ everyone believe that evil spirits haunt the deserted Sinclair house.
  - A. made
  - B. has made
  - C. makes
  - D. make
  
2. Where \_\_\_\_\_ the earrings that I left by the bathroom sink? Oh no! That stupid cat has swatted them down the drain again!
  - A. was
  - B. were
  - C. is
  - D. are
  
3. Neither of those sharks circling your boogie board \_\_\_\_\_ hungry enough to bite.
  - A. looks
  - B. look
  - C. looked
  - D. had looked
  
4. One hundred and fifty gallons \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of liquid the average living room rug can absorb. Rachel discovered this fact after taking a long shower when the curtain wasn't tucked inside the tub.
  - A. is
  - B. are
  - C. was
  - D. were
  
5. Agnes never loses a single possession. Everyone knows what belongs to her, for each pen, pencil, and paperclip \_\_\_\_\_ a tiny flag attached with Agnes' full name on it.
  - A. will have
  - B. has
  - C. have
  - D. had
  
6. Asteroids and comets slamming into Earth \_\_\_\_\_ Marge; she tries to remain under the protective cover of her roof as much as possible.
  - A. worries
  - B. worry
  - C. worried
  - D. used to worry

7. Someone—perhaps Emmanuel or Paul—\_\_\_\_\_ the right wine to serve with earthworm lasagna.
- A. knew
  - B. will know
  - C. knows
  - D. know
8. These scissors \_\_\_\_\_ so dull that I'm not sure you could slice butter with them!
- A. is
  - B. are
  - C. has been
  - D. had been
9. Physics \_\_\_\_\_ proven to be Jerry's easiest subject this semester. He brings Carol, the lab assistant, an oatmeal-raisin cookie, and, as his reward, she finishes his report.
- A. has
  - B. have
  - C. had
  - D. will have
10. The good jewelry Dad gave Sara for graduation \_\_\_\_\_ more than the cheap leather wallet that David got as his reward for finishing high school.
- A. costs
  - B. cost
  - C. will cost
  - D. had cost
11. At Wendy's Washateria, all of the dryers \_\_\_\_\_ six quarters before spinning wet clothes dry.
- A. gobbles
  - B. gobble
  - C. gobbled
  - D. will gobble
12. At Wendy's Washateria, each of the industrial washing machines \_\_\_\_\_ so forcefully during the spin cycle that new patrons dash outside, convinced that an earthquake is shaking the building.
- A. rocks
  - B. rock
  - C. rocked
  - D. will rock
13. Everyone at Wendy's Washateria, even Myra and old Mrs. Webster, \_\_\_\_\_ that she could afford her own washer and dryer at home.
- A. wished
  - B. have wished
  - C. wish
  - D. wishes

14. Every cereal bowl and casserole dish \_\_\_\_\_ slipped out of Sheila's soapy hands and shattered on the hard tile of the kitchen floor. Sheila really needs to buy a dishwasher.
- A. has
  - B. have
  - C. will have
  - D. had
15. Not only fat caterpillars but also my neighbor's rabbits \_\_\_\_\_ chewed my poor tomato plants to leafless nubs.
- A. has
  - B. have
  - C. will have
  - D. had
16. Two cups of sliced jalapeno peppers \_\_\_\_\_ extreme for a single batch of burrito filling, but that's the amount in Felipe's recipe.
- A. seemed
  - B. had seemed
  - C. seems
  - D. seem
17. Even after winning the away game, the girl's basketball team \_\_\_\_\_ gloomy because Coach Cox will insist that the players return to their hotel rooms to study for next week's classes.
- A. is
  - B. are
  - C. was
  - D. were
18. Either *The Matrix* or *Aliens* \_\_\_\_\_ Sam's favorite science-fiction movie.
- A. was
  - B. were
  - C. is
  - D. are
19. The eight slots on Pam's extra large toaster \_\_\_\_\_ that no one has to fight over frozen waffles during breakfast.
- A. meant
  - B. will mean
  - C. means
  - D. mean
20. "Here \_\_\_\_\_ the box of broken appliances that you promised to repair," Bob reminded Sue, his wife.
- A. is
  - B. are
  - C. will be
  - D. have been

21. Statistics \_\_\_\_\_ become Matt's favorite subject because for fifty minutes three times a week he gets to study the beautiful curls on the back of Betty's head.
- A. has
  - B. have
  - C. had
  - D. will have
22. Elton's newest pair of eyeglasses \_\_\_\_\_ corrected his vision so well that this young man clearly sees the lovely Miranda sneering at his nerdy appearance.
- A. have
  - B. had
  - C. has
  - D. will have
23. The class \_\_\_\_\_ about the solution to the stuffy condition of the room; ten students want to open the window, but the others remember the flood of frightened cockroaches that poured in the last time Mr. Frampton released the window from the frame.
- A. disagrees
  - B. disagree
  - C. disagreed
  - D. will continue to disagree
24. When the fire alarm starts ringing, Mrs. Hoff is one of those teachers who \_\_\_\_\_ that class continue on the lawn outside.
- A. insists
  - B. insist
  - C. insisted
  - D. has insisted
25. Mrs. Hoff and Mrs. Phillips \_\_\_\_\_ that class time is precious and should not be wasted because of someone's immature prank.
- A. believes
  - B. believe
  - C. believed
  - D. will believe



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