

## **Subject-Verb Agreement**

### Practice

#### **Exercise A.**

*For each word below, write **S** for singular or **P** for plural.*

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. cases  | 6. stereos  |
| 2. us     | 7. them     |
| 3. clock  | 8. wish     |
| 4. book   | 9. mice     |
| 5. pencil | 10. knuckle |

#### **Exercise B.**

*For each of the following sentences, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.*

11. Our cat (like, likes) to watch television with us, especially the nature shows.
12. The entire class (enjoy, enjoys) the reading assignment every week.
13. Before he became a lawyer, my uncle Nacio (was, were) a high-wire performer in the circus.

*For each of the following sentences, underline the helping verb in parentheses that agrees with its subject.*

14. Over the past year, Jonelle (has, have) been collecting articles about Olympic gymnasts.
15. I read that English actor Ralph Fiennes (is, are) appearing in Hamlet this season in London.

#### **Exercise C.**

*In each of the following sentences, circle the subject of the verb in parentheses. Then underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with its subject.*

16. The students in my karate class (watch, watches) carefully whenever the instructor demonstrates a move.
17. The jar of lima beans (was, were) stored in the coolest section of the cellar.
18. The birthday cards that I received this year (is, are) mostly from out of town.
19. The two men, who both work the third shift at the police department, (sleep, sleeps) during the day.
20. The judges on the panel (decide, decides) which skaters will continue to the semifinals.

#### **Exercises D. - F.**

*Circle the indefinite pronoun in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.*

21. Something about the candidate's answers (has, have) been bothering me ever since the debate.
22. Both of the dogs (has, have) already been treated for heartworm.
23. All of the stuff in the attic (need, needs) to be dusted before the yard sale.
24. Neither of the movies (is, are) very good.
25. Several of these dogs (have, has) already won awards.
26. Everybody who is registered for the class (read, reads) the same books.
27. No one in the play (was, were) prepared for the overwhelming response of the audience on opening night.
28. (Is, Are) any of the dough ready to be baked?
29. The director is pleased that more of the singers (have, has) memorized the score for this rehearsal than for the last rehearsal.
30. Somebody among the reporters covering the trial (is, are) getting inside information from the district attorney.

**Exercises G. – I.** *Circle the subject or subjects of the verb in parentheses in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the word or word group in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.*

31. Plants and flowers (is, are) featured on the cover of this book about Carver's life.
32. The author and illustrator of the book (is, are) the same person.
33. According to the book, grief and sorrow (was, were) characteristic of Carver's early life.
34. Neither his mother nor his father (was, were) alive to raise Carver.
35. At the time, slaveholding and slave trading (was, were) widespread.
36. Neither Carver nor many other African Americans (was, were) able to find a college that would enroll them.
37. Neither the large universities nor the local college (was, were) accepting applications from African Americans.
38. Just laws and the strict enforcement of them (was, were) needed.
39. Also described in the book (is, are) Carver's experiments and discoveries.
40. An innovative educator and scientist (was, were) George Washington Carver.

**Exercise J.** *Circle the subject or subjects of the verb in parentheses in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the word or word group in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.*

41. (Are, Is) your little brother a finalist in the state gymnastics tournament?
42. (There's, There are) over forty species of birds that pass through my backyard.
43. How (do, does) bees make honey?
44. Here (lie, lies) the ruins of the colony.
45. When (is, are) your cousins from Guatemala coming to visit?

**Exercise K.** *Complete each of the following sentences by inserting the correct contraction, doesn't or don't, on the line provided.*

46. Mr. Maduzia \_\_\_\_\_ know anyone else on the softball team.
47. \_\_\_\_\_ someone have the answer to my question?
48. Dr. Anna Kim \_\_\_\_\_ work at this clinic any longer.
49. Paolo \_\_\_\_\_ believe in UFO's, but he does believe in ghosts.
50. These ficus plants \_\_\_\_\_ look very healthy to me.

**Exercise L.** *On the line provided in each of the following sentences, write the correct present tense form of the verb in parentheses.*

51. The team \_\_\_\_\_ among themselves over who gets to go first. (bicker)
52. The committee \_\_\_\_\_ gone their separate ways for lunch. (have)
53. Every Saturday, the troop \_\_\_\_\_ individual projects to their parents. (present)
54. The public \_\_\_\_\_ each new CD from Bryn Terfel with even greater acclaim than the one before. (greet)
55. The posse \_\_\_\_\_ which among them would bring the prisoner back to town. (discuss)

**Exercises M. – N.** *In the following sentences, underline the verb form in parentheses that agrees with the subject.*

56. The Olympics (was, were) in Munich, Germany, that year.
57. Physics (is, are) my first class of the day.
58. (Is, Are) mumps contagious?
59. As she tips her head forward, Charlene's eyeglasses (slip, slips) down her nose.
60. A summons (was, were) issued for the witness to appear in court the next day.

**Exercise O.** *In each of the following sentences, underline the verb form in parentheses that agrees with the subject.*

61. *The Fantastiks* (is, are) the play that the drama club is performing.
62. *Around the World in 80 Days* (is, are) the book that the literature class is reading.
63. *The Planets* (were, was) the first work on yesterday's orchestra program.
64. *Circular Forms* (was, were) painted by Robert Delauney.
65. "We Three Kings" (is, are) a traditional holiday carol.