Subject Verb Agreement Lesson 2

Review: What is a subject?
• The person, place, or thing that is performing the action of the sentence. • Represents what or whom the sentence is about. • Usually contains a noun or pronoun

Review: What is a verb?	
Action verbs	Tell us the action of someone or something. **Examples:** sing, sleep, think
Linking verbs	Do not describe an action, but tell us about the state or condition of subjects Link the subject with a noun or an adjective → I am happy. **Examples:** all 'be' verbs, become, seem, appear, grow, feel
Helping verbs	Do no describe an action Must be used before action or linking verbs Part of verb phrases that "help" give additional information (possibility or tense) to the main verb **Examples:** modal verbs (will, must, can, etc), 'be' verbs, has, have, do
Difference between linking and helping verbs	Some verbs ('be' verbs, modal verbs, do, have) can either be linking or helping verbs **Examples:** Sarah is moving to a new house. (helping) Sarah is ready to go to the new house. (linking) Joanne did finish her homework last night! (helping) Joanne did her homework last night. (action)

Review: Basic SVA Rule
Singular subject → singular verb Plural subject → plural verb

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Examples:
Incorrect → The cat sleep on the bed.
Correct → The cat sleeps on the bed.

Incorrect → The girls likes ice cream.
Correct → The girls like ice cream.

Empty subjects (here, there)

In sentences which begin with empty subjects like 'here' or 'there', the main subject is the one that is after the verb.

Examples:
Incorrect → There is many children in the playground now.
Correct → There are many children in the playground now.

Incorrect → Here are a book that you might like to read.
Correct → Here is a book that you might like to read.

Question 1

There _____ plenty of space in the garden for the young children to safely run around.

1. are
2. was
3. were
4. have been

Distance, time, money

When distances, periods of time and sums of money are considered as one unit, a singular verb is required.

Examples:
Incorrect → Two hours are a long time to wait for my food delivery.
Correct → Two hours is a long time to wait for my food delivery.

Incorrect → Three hundred dollars are too much for that small plastic pencil box.
Correct → Three hundred dollars is too much for that small plastic pencil box.

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Question 2

Eighteen years _____ the minimum age to sign up for a social media account.

1. is
2. are
3. has
4. have

Portions (noun after 'of')

If the noun after 'of' is singular, a singular verb is required.

Examples:
Incorrect → A lot of people is at the party.
Correct → A lot of people are at the party.

Incorrect → All of the pizza have been eaten.
Correct → All of the pizza has been eaten.

Incorrect → All of the pizzas has been eaten.
Correct → All of the pizzas have been eaten.

Incorrect → Some of the pizza are missing.
Correct → Some of the pizza is missing.

Incorrect → Some of the pizzas is missing.
Correct → Some of the pizzas are missing.

Question 3

Half of the class _____ gone to the hall for an assembly.

1. has
2. was
3. have
4. were

Question 4

A large number of soldiers _____ died for the country during the war.

1. is
2. has

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3. have
4. having

Portions (all, some, few, many, etc)

1) 'All' → singular or plural depending on what they are referring to
2) 'Few', 'both', 'many', 'several' and 'some' → mostly plural

Examples:
Incorrect → Some people in my neighbourhood is very helpful.
Correct → Some people in my neighbourhood are very helpful.

Incorrect → Few things was left to be done
Correct → Few things were left to be done

Question 5

Much _____ been said in the important class meeting we had this morning.

(1) has
(2) was
(3) have
(4) were

Indefinite Pronouns (each, each one, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, no one)

These words are considered singular and will always require a singular verb.

Examples:
Incorrect → Each one of you have to attend the compulsory assembly tomorrow.
Correct → Each one of you has to attend the compulsory assembly tomorrow.

Incorrect → Nobody are in the classroom right now.
Correct → Nobody is in the classroom right now.

Question 6

Each and every student in this class _____ to vote for the new class leader.

(1) is
(2) are
(3) has
(4) have

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Question 7

None of the children _____ to go swimming this afternoon.

(1) want
(2) wants
(3) wanted
(4) wanting

Plurale Tantum

When the nouns are things made of two parts, such as scissors, pants, glasses, shorts, etc) → plural verb is required.

Example:
Incorrect → These glasses is very expensive.
Correct → These glasses are very expensive.

Question 8

The jeans she is wearing now _____ really cool. I wonder where she got them from?

(1) look
(2) looks
(3) looked
(4) looking

Practice 1 [5 marks]

1. One of my sisters (is, are) going on a trip to France.
2. Each book in this library (is, are) fiction.
3. Mathematics (is, are) John's favorite subject, while Civics (is, are) Andrea's favorite subject.
4. Your pants (is, are) at the cleaner's.
5. Here (is, are) the pair of scissors you were looking for.

Practice 2 [5 marks]

1. Nobody _____ the problems I've been through in my life.
   a. know
   b. knows
   c. known

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d. knowing

2. _____ the tweezers in the drawer now?
   a. is
   b. are
   c. was
   d. were

3. Twenty dollars _____ the price of a movie these days. How expensive!
   a. is
   b. are
   c. was
   d. were

4. Two thirds of the members _____ confirmed their attendance for the seminar next week.
   a. has
   b. have
   c. is having
   d. are having

5. All of the trophies, including the broken one, _____ on display in this display case last year.
   a. is
   b. are
   c. was
   d. were

Practice 3 [12 marks]

Fill in the blanks with the correct word. Use each word only once.

is are has have need needs drop drops
prepare prepares lead leads point points
work works nap naps require requires know knows

Do you want to ace the next test? Try taking a mid-afternoon nap. New research is looking into the possibility that taking an afternoon nap 1) _____ the brain to remember things. Researchers compare this process to that of rebooting a computer so that it 2) _____ even more smoothly than before.

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Professor Matthew Walker, who 3) _____ the research, has divided thirty-nine young adults into two groups. Participants have to take part in all of the memory exercises that 4) _____ them to remember faces and link these faces with names. To make the task more difficult, spectacles 5) _____ to be worn by some of these faces. After twenty of these participants 6) _____ napped for one hundred minutes, they will take part in another memory exercise at six in the evening. It is expected that those who stay awake since noon will perform worse on the tests than those who 7) _____. Walker, along with many other researchers, 8) _____ out that a person's ability to learn normally 9) _____ from noon to six in the evening. However, those who nap would be able to avoid that decline. Walker believes that sleep allows a person's brain to remember more things.

"Sleep plays a critical role in the processing of memories," he said, "It is not only important to sleep after learning, but you also need it before learning to prepare the brain for laying down the information."

Almost every researcher 10) _____ found out that memory-refreshing seems to occur in deep sleep and dreaming. Sleeping long enough gives the brain an opportunity to go through various cycles of sleep. "The brain's ability to absorb information 11) _____ not always stable," Walker said, "It may get overwhelmed with too much learning throughout the entire day. Hence, it is essential to give the brain a rest. Without a doubt, these findings will confirm what many people already 12) _____ - sleep is important. For one's well-being, having sufficient sleep is necessary.

Adapted from "An Afternoon Nap Might ,4 fake You Smarter"' by HealthDay News Service

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