Exercise 7. Warm-up. (Chart 6-2)

Look at the verbs in blue in each pair of sentences. How do you know when to use a singular or a plural verb?

1. a. A girl is in the classroom.
   b. Some girls are in the classroom.
2. a. A girl and a boy are in the classroom.
   b. Every girl and boy is in the classroom.
3. a. The fruit at those markets is cheap.
   b. The apples at that market are cheap.
4. a. Vegetables are good for you.
   b. Eating vegetables is good for you.

6-2 Basic Subject-Verb Agreement

Singular Verb	Plural Verb	
(a) My *friend* ***lives*** in Boston.	(b) My *friends* ***live*** in Boston.	*Verb* + ***-s/-es*** = third person singular in the simple present tense *Noun* + ***-s/-es*** = plural
	(c) My *brother* ***and*** *sister* ***live*** in Boston. (d) My *brother, sister,* ***and*** *cousin* ***live*** in Boston.	Two or more subjects connected by ***and*** require a plural verb.
(e) *Every man, woman,* ***and*** *child* ***needs*** love. (f) *Each book* ***and*** *magazine* ***is*** listed in the bibliography.		EXCEPTION: ***Every*** and ***each*** are always followed immediately by singular nouns. (See Chart 7-11, p. 129.) In this case, even when there are two (or more) nouns connected by ***and***, the verb is singular.
(g) That *book* on political parties *is* interesting. (i) The *book* that I got from my parents *was* very interesting.	(h) The *ideas* in that book *are* interesting. (j) The *books* I bought at the bookstore *were* expensive.	Sometimes a phrase or clause separates a subject from its verb. These interrupting structures do not affect basic agreement. For example, in (g) the interrupting prepositional phrase ***on political parties*** does not change the fact that the verb ***is*** must agree with the subject ***book***. In (i) and (j): The subject and verb are separated by an adjective clause. (See Chapter 13.)
(k) *Watching* old movies *is* fun.		A gerund (e.g., *watching*) used as the subject of the sentence requires a singular verb. (See Chart 14-8, p. 322.)

Exercise 8. Looking at grammar. (Chart 6-2)

Choose the correct completions.

1. Lettuce (*is, are*) good for you.
2. The subjects you will be studying in this course (*is, are*) listed in the syllabus.
3. The extent of Fatima's knowledge on various subjects (*astounds, astound*) me.
4. Oranges, tomatoes, fresh strawberries, cabbage, and lettuce (*is, are*) rich in vitamin C.

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5. Every man, woman, and child (*is, are*) protected under the law.
6. The professor and the student (*agrees, agree*) on that point.
7. Almost every professor and student at the university (*approves, approve*) of the choice of Dr. Brown as the new president.
8. Each girl and boy in the sixth-grade class (*has, have*) to do a science project.
9. Tomatoes (*is, are*) easy to grow. Growing tomatoes (*is, are*) especially easy in hot climates.
10. Getting to know students from all over the world (*is, are*) one of the best parts of my job.
11. Where (*does, do*) your parents live?
12. Annie had a hard time when she was coming home from the store because the bag of groceries (*was, were*) too heavy for her to carry.
13. Why (*was, were*) Yoko and Alex late for the meeting?
14. (*Is, Are*) having the responsibility for taking care of pets good for young children?
15. I like to go shopping when I'm on vacation, but I don't buy many things. A lot of the stuff* in tourist shops (*is, are*) cheaply made and overpriced.



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