

### □ **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 <i>friend</i> <b>lives</b> in Boston.	(b) My <i>friends</i> <b>live</b> in Boston.	<i>Verb + -s/-es</i> = third person singular in the simple present tense <i>Noun + -s/-es</i> = plural
	(c) My <i>brother and sister</i> <b>live</b> in Boston. (d) My <i>brother, sister, and cousin</i> <b>live</b> in Boston.	Two or more subjects connected by <i>and</i> require a plural verb.
(e) <i>Every man, woman, and child</i> <b>needs</b> love. (f) <i>Each book and magazine</i> <b>is</b> listed in the bibliography.		EXCEPTION: <i>Every</i> and <i>each</i> 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 <i>and</i> , the verb is singular.
(g) That <i>book</i> on political parties <b>is</b> interesting. (i) The <i>book</i> that I got from my parents <b>was</b> very interesting.	(h) The <i>ideas</i> in that book <b>are</b> interesting. (j) The <i>books</i> I bought at the bookstore <b>were</b> 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 <i>on political parties</i> does not change the fact that the verb <b>is</b> must agree with the subject <i>book</i> . In (i) and (j): The subject and verb are separated by an adjective clause. (See Chapter 13.)
(k) <i>Watching</i> old movies <b>is</b> fun.		A gerund (e.g., <i>watching</i> ) 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.

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.

