

❑ **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> lives in Boston.	(b) My <i>friends</i> live in Boston.	Verb + -s/-es = third person singular in the simple present tense Noun + -s/-es = plural
	(c) My <i>brother and sister</i> live in Boston. (d) My <i>brother, sister, and cousin</i> live in Boston.	Two or more subjects connected by and require a plural verb.
(e) <i>Every man, woman, and child</i> needs love. (f) <i>Each book and magazine</i> 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 <i>book</i> on political parties is interesting. (i) The <i>book</i> that I got from my parents was very interesting.	(h) The <i>ideas</i> in that book are interesting. (j) The <i>books</i> 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) <i>Watching</i> old movies is 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.

