

6-3 Subject-Verb Agreement: Using Expressions of Quantity

Singular Verb	Plural Verb	
(a) <i>Some of the book is</i> good. (c) <i>A lot of the equipment is</i> new. (e) <i>Two-thirds of the money is</i> mine. (g) <i>Most of our homework is</i> easy.	(b) <i>Some of the books are</i> good. (d) <i>A lot of my friends are</i> here. (f) <i>Two-thirds of the boys are</i> here. (h) <i>Most of our assignments are</i> easy.	In most expressions of quantity, the verb is determined by the noun (or pronoun) that follows <i>of</i> . For example, in (a) and (b): <i>some of + singular noun = singular verb</i> <i>some of + plural noun = plural verb</i>
(i) <i>One of my friends is</i> here. (j) <i>Each of my friends is</i> here. (k) <i>Every one of my friends is</i> here.		EXCEPTIONS: <i>One of, each of, and every one of</i> take singular verbs. <i>one of, each of, every one of</i> } + plural noun = singular verb
(l) <i>None of the boys is</i> here.	(m) <i>None of the boys are</i> here.	Subjects with <i>none of</i> used to be considered singular in very formal English, but plural verbs are often used in informal English and sometimes even in formal writing.
(n) <i>The number of students in the class is</i> fifteen.	(o) <i>A number of students were</i> late for class.	COMPARE: In (n): <i>The number</i> is the subject. In (o): <i>A number of</i> is an expression of quantity meaning "a lot of." It is followed by a plural noun and a plural verb.

□ Exercise 11. Looking at grammar. (Chart 6-3)

Choose the correct completions. Underline the word(s) that determine whether the verb is singular or plural.

1. Some of the fruit in this bowl (is, are) rotten.
2. Some of the apples in that bowl (is, are) rotten.
3. Most of the movie (is, are) funny.
4. Most of the movies (is, are) funny.
5. Half of the students in the class (is, are) from Arabic-speaking countries.
6. Half of this money (is, are) yours.
7. A lot of the students in the class (is, are) from Southeast Asia.
8. A lot of clothing in those stores (is, are) on sale this week.
9. One of my best friends (is, are) coming to visit me next month.
10. Each boy in the class (has, have) his own notebook.
11. Each of the boys in the class (has, have) his own notebook.

12. Every one of the students (*is, are*) required to take the final test.
13. None of the animals at the zoo (*is, are*) free to roam. All of them (*is, are*) in enclosures.
14. A number of students (*is, are*) absent today.
15. The number of employees in my company (*is, are*) approximately ten thousand.
16. One of the chief materials in bones and teeth (*is, are*) calcium.
17. (*Does, Do*) all of the students have their books?
18. (*Does, Do*) all of this homework have to be finished by tomorrow?
19. Why (*was, were*) some of the students excused from the examination?
20. Why (*was, were*) one of the students excused from the examination?