

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 of . For example, in (a) and (b): <i>some of</i> + singular noun = singular verb <i>some of</i> + plural noun = plural verb
(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: One of , each of , and every one of take singular verbs. $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{one of} \\ \text{each of} \\ \text{every one of} \end{array} \right\} + \text{plural noun} = \text{singular verb}$
(l) <i>None of the boys is</i> here.	(m) <i>None of the boys are</i> here.	Subjects with none of 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): The number is the subject. In (o): A number of 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.

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