

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 + 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: One of , each of , and every one of take singular verbs. <i>one of</i> <i>each of</i> <i>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 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?

□ **Exercise 12. Looking at grammar.** (Chart 6-3)

Take turns making sentences. Work with a partner or in small groups.

... *is/are unusual.*

1. The story → *The story is unusual.*
2. The stories
3. Some of the story
4. Some of the stories
5. Two-thirds of the story
6. One of the stories
7. Each of the stories
8. None of the story
9. None of the stories
10. A number of stories

... *is/are secondhand.*

11. The furniture
12. A lot of the furniture
13. A lot of the chairs
14. Some of the furniture
15. Half of the furniture
16. None of the furniture
17. Some of the chairs
18. Three-fourths of the furniture
19. Seventy-five percent of the furniture
20. Half of the chairs

□ **Exercise 13. Warm-up.** (Chart 6-4)

Complete the sentences with your own words.

1. Think about (or look around) your classroom.

There are _____ in my classroom.

There is _____ in my classroom.

2. Think about (or look around) your bedroom.

There are _____ in my bedroom.

There is _____ in my bedroom.

6-4 Subject-Verb Agreement: Using *There + Be*

<p>(a) <i>There is a fly</i> in the room.</p> <p>(b) <i>There are three windows</i> in this room.</p>	<p>There + be introduces the idea that something exists in a particular place. There + be + subject + expression of place* The subject follows be when there is used. In (a): The subject is <i>a fly</i>. (singular) In (b): The subject is <i>three windows</i>. (plural)</p>
<p>(c) <i>INFORMAL: There 's two sides</i> to every story.</p>	<p>In informal spoken English, some native speakers use a singular verb even when the subject is plural, as in (c). The use of this form is fairly frequent but is not generally considered to be grammatically correct.</p>

*Sometimes the expression of place is omitted when the meaning is clear. For example, *There are seven continents*. The implied expression of place is clearly *in the world*.

Exercise 14. Looking at grammar. (Chart 6-4)

Choose the correct completions.

- There (*isn't, aren't*) any letters in the mail for you today.
- There (*isn't, aren't*) any mail for you today.
- There (*is, are*) a lot of problems in the world.
- There (*is, are*) a hole in his sock.
- How many kinds of birds (*is, are*) there in the world?
- Why (*isn't, aren't*) there a hospital close to those villages?
- There (*was, were*) a terrible earthquake in Iran last year.
- Why (*is, are*) there a shortage of available apartments for rent in this city at present?
- There (*is, are*) more women than men in my office.
- There (*has been, have been*) a line in front of that theater every night for the past two weeks.
- How many wars do you suppose there (*has been, have been*) in the history of the world?



Exercise 15. Listening. (Chart 6-4)

Choose the words you hear. For many of the sentences, you will hear reductions of the given words. NOTE: **Is + there** can sound like "ih-zehr." For example, **Is there** ("ih-zehr") *a doctor in the house?*



Example: You will hear: There's a spider on the wall.

You will choose: There is There are

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|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. There is | There are | 5. Is there | Are there |
| 2. there is | there are | 6. Is there | Are there |
| 3. There is | There are | 7. there is | there are |
| 4. There is | There are | 8. Is there | Are there |