Subject-Verb Agreement exercise

Instructions: Choose the answer that best corrects the underlined portion of the sentence. If the underlined portion is best as is, choose (A).

Question 1

The collection of rare stamps, which includes several limited editions, were donated to the museum last week.

A) which includes several limited editions, were

B) which include several limited editions, were

C) which includes several limited editions, was

D) which include several limited editions, was

Question 2

Among the many challenges facing the new administration, reducing unemployment and stimulating economic growth stands out as the most critical.

A) reducing unemployment and stimulating economic growth stands

B) reducing unemployment and stimulating economic growth stand

C) reducing unemployment and stimulating economic growth is standing

D) to reduce unemployment and to stimulate economic growth stands

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Question 3

Neither the captain nor the players is happy with the outcome of the game, despite their valiant efforts.

A) is happy B) are happy C) were happy D) has been happy

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Question 4

The intricate details on the ancient pottery, discovered by archaeologists in the desert, provides valuable insights into the civilization's artistic practices.

A) discovered by archaeologists in the desert, provides

B) discovered by archaeologists in the desert, provide

C) discovered by archaeologists in the desert, is providing

D) discovering by archaeologists in the desert, provides

Question 5

Each of the students in the advanced class have demonstrated a remarkable understanding of complex calculus concepts.

A) have demonstrated

B) has demonstrated

C) were demonstrating

D) are demonstrating

Question 6

The new policy, along with several other initiatives, aim to improve public transportation in the city.

A) aim to improve

B) aims to improve

C) are aiming to improve

D) have aimed to improve

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Question 7

While a number of factors contributes to climate change, the increase in greenhouse gas emissions is particularly concerning.

A) contributes to

B) contribute to

C) is contributing to

D) has contributed to

Question 8

The main reason for the team's struggles are a lack of consistent effort and effective communication.

A) are a lack

B) is a lack

C) were a lack

D) have been a lack

Question 9

Both the director and the lead actress was honored at the film festival for their outstanding contributions to cinema.

A) was honored

B) were honored

C) is being honored

D) has been honored

Question 10

The sound of the birds chirping in the early morning fill the air with a sense of peace and tranquility.

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A) fill the air

B) fills the air

C) are filling the air

D) have filled the air

Model Answers and Explanations

Question 1

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The subject of the sentence is "collection" (singular), not "stamps." The phrase "of rare stamps" is a prepositional phrase and should be crossed out when identifying the subject. Therefore, the singular verb "was" is needed to agree with "collection."

Question 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: This sentence features a compound subject: "reducing unemployment and stimulating economic growth." When subjects are joined by "and," they typically take a plural verb. Therefore, "stand" is the correct plural verb.

Question 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: This sentence uses "Neither...nor." According to the "Or/Nor Rule," the verb agrees with the subject closest to it. In this case, "players" (plural) is closest to the verb, so the plural verb "are happy" is correct.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The subject of the sentence is "details" (plural), not "pottery." The phrase "on the ancient pottery" and the clause "discovered by archaeologists in the desert" are modifiers that come between the subject and the verb. Therefore, the plural verb "provide" is needed to agree with "details."

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

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Explanation: "Each" is always a singular pronoun, even when followed by a prepositional phrase like "of the students." Therefore, the singular verb "has demonstrated" is correct.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The subject is "policy" (singular). The phrase "along with several other initiatives" is an additive phrase and does not make the subject plural. Therefore, the singular verb "aims to improve" is correct.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The phrase "a number of" acts as a plural quantifier, meaning "many." Therefore, "factors" is treated as a plural subject, and the plural verb "contribute to" is correct. (If it were "the number of," it would be singular.)

Question 8

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The subject of the sentence is "reason" (singular), not "struggles." The phrase "for the team's struggles" is a prepositional phrase. Therefore, the singular verb "is a lack" is needed to agree with "reason."

Question 9

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: This sentence has a compound subject: "the director and the lead actress." When two subjects are joined by "and," they typically take a plural verb. Therefore, "were honored" is the correct plural verb.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The subject of the sentence is "sound" (singular), not "birds." The phrase "of the birds chirping in the early morning" is a prepositional phrase modifying "sound." Therefore, the singular verb "fills the air" is needed to agree with "sound."

Absolutely, Andrew! Here's a fully designed dialogue with intentional **Subject/Verb Agreement mistakes** embedded in it, ideal for your Zoom warm-up activity. It's humorous, simple, and interactive—perfect for breaking the ice and leading into your lesson.

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🔍 Grammar Detective Warm-Up

Title: "Agent Max's Daily Mission Report"

Context for Students:
Agent Max is a secret spy dog who sends daily reports to his boss. But English is not his first language... Can you help him correct his mistakes before the mission fails?

🕵️‍♂️ Agent Max's Diary Entry (with mistakes)

Dear Boss,

Today start strange. The birds **was** singing too loud. My human **wake** up late again and **don't brings** my breakfast. I **chase** the cat next door, but she **run** too fast.

Then, I **goes** to the park with the small humans. One of them **throw** a stick, and the others **runs** away.

My favorite squirrel **come** back! She always **tease** me, and her tail **look** like a broom.

In the evening, my owner **take** me to spy class. The instructor **say** we **needs** to stay quiet. But one of my classmates **start** barking in class and **get** us in trouble!

That's all for today. The mission continue tomorrow.

Barkfully,
Agent Max 🐾

❓ Your Task (for Students):

1. Read the diary entry silently.
2. Highlight or write down any grammar mistakes you find (focus on **Subject/Verb Agreement**).
3. Work in pairs or share aloud to correct each one.
4. Bonus: Can you explain *why* the original sentence is wrong?

✅ Answer Key – Subject/Verb Agreement Mistakes (with Corrections)

Mistaken Sentence	Correction	Explanation
s singing	**re** singing	ral, so the verb should be "were"

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Mistaken Sentence	Correction	Explanation
ake up late	**akes** up late	is singular → needs "wakes"
my breakfast	**g** my breakfast	= he/she = "doesn't" + base verb
ıt... she **run** too fast	cat... she **ran** too fast	nsistency and 3rd person singular "she ran"
park	rk	ɔase form: "go" not "goes"
:hrow a stick	**:hrows** a stick	ılar → "throws"
ıns away	**ın** away	ural → "run"
quirrel **come** back	**nes** back	ingular → "comes"
like a broom	**ɜ** like a broom	ılar → "looks"
ke me	**kes** me	ngular → "takes"
r **say** we **needs**...	r **says** we **need**...	= he/she → "says"; "we" = plural → "need"
ssmates **start**...	ssmates **starts**...	ılar → "starts"

Final Tip:

You can turn this into a **Zoom poll**, screen annotation task, or a **shared Google Doc** group editing challenge for live correction together.

Would you like me to design a Google Slides version or interactive worksheet PDF for this?

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