GRAMMAR

ADJECTIVES USED AS NOUNS

In English, some adjectives can function as nouns. They are used to describe a group of people. They usually take a plural verb and a definite article.

Example: *the old* → people who are old
the rich → people who are rich
the homeless → people who don't have a house
the gifted → people who have special talents

They can also denote abstract notions: *the good, the evil, the beautiful,* etc.

SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT TO EXPRESS QUANTITY

We usually use a plural verb after:
- *a/the majority of*
- *a/the minority of*
- *a number of*
- *a lot of*
- *plenty of*

Example: *The majority of* people are responsible tourists.

Note: We use a singular verb with *the number of.*

Example: *The number of* people suffering from hunger *is* increasing.

- **Rewrite the sentences below as in the example.**

Example: Rich people should pay more tax than poor people. - *The rich* should pay more tax than *the poor*.

a. Factories close, and life gets extremely difficult for unemployed people.

_____

b. There is a stereotype that old people have difficulty learning languages.

_____

c. Young people are ready to take action because they are concerned about climate change.

_____

d. Most of the time, healthy people are the happiest.

_____

e. Blind people should have the same opportunities as sighted people.

_____

- **Choose the correct form of the verb.**

a. A number of students (was / were) late for the meeting.

b. Plenty of trees (has / have) been planted along the roads.

c. The number of employees (is / are) increasing.

d. A majority of students (is / are) expected to vote in the elections.

e. A lot of bottles (was / were) collected for recycling.