

## SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT: EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY AND GROUP WORDS REFERRED TO AS A WHOLE

N.B.



- a) Use plural nouns and verbs after the following expressions: *a number of, the majority of, a couple of, a group of, a lot of, the rest of.*
- b) Use uncountable nouns and singular verbs after *a lot of, the rest of.*  
e.g. *The rest of time was filled with silence and regret.*
- c) Use plural nouns and singular verbs after *the number of.*  
e.g. *The number of students present today is 20.*
- d) Use a singular verb when two nouns are so commonly put together that they are thought of as a single unit.  
e.g. *Fish and chips is a take-away food that originated in the UK.*

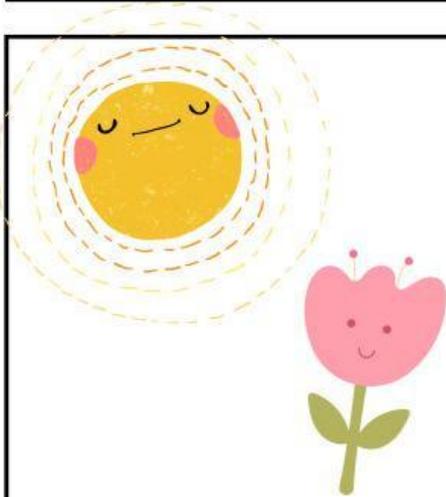
### • Choose the right verb.

1. Bacon and eggs ( is / are ) what I had for breakfast.
2. A number of keyboard shortcuts ( is / are ) available.
3. The number of students involved ( was / were ) 250.
4. Guns and Roses ( are / is ) my favorite rock group.
5. A number of preparatory steps ( is / are ) required.
6. The majority of courses ( is / are ) delivered online.
7. Corned beef and cabbage ( were / was ) his favorite dish.
8. The rest of time ( remain/ remains ) uncertain.
9. The rest of the pages ( was / were ) blank.
10. A group of us ( is / are ) going to the theatre tonight.



### • Respond with *is* or *are*.

1. The number of people \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. A number of students \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Fish and chips \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The majority of people \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. A couple of books \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. The rest of my friends \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. The number of places \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Bread and butter \_\_\_\_\_ .



### • Correct the highlighted verb or write 'correct'.

1. Chicken and dumplings **is** my favorite holiday dish. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A number of options **was** considered. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The number of cell phone users **has** increased rapidly. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The rest of questions **was** quite easy. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A couple of reporters **was** taking notes. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Marmelade and toast **are** not enough for breakfast. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The majority of people **prefer** TV to radio. \_\_\_\_\_

