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Subject-Verb Agreement A

8b. A verb should agree in number with its subject.

(1) Singular subjects take singular verbs.
(2) Plural subjects take plural verbs.

EXAMPLES Mexican **art is** interesting. [The singular verb *is* agrees with the singular subject *art*.]

Mexican **holidays are celebrated** in the Southwest. [The plural helping verb *are* agrees with the plural subject *holidays*.]

USAGE

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the verb or helping verb in parentheses that agrees with its subject.

Example **1.** Mr. Frank *(has, have)* been studying Mexican culture.

1. Cinco de Mayo *(is, are)* an important Mexican holiday.
2. We *(celebrates, celebrate)* the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.
3. Some people *(watches, watch)* these celebrations in Los Angeles, California.
4. Others *(sees, see)* them in San Antonio, Texas.
5. The celebrations *(includes, include)* parades and dancing.
6. The women dancers *(wears, wear)* swirling skirts or brilliant colors.
7. Strolling bands *(plays, play)* traditional mariachi music.
8. Spectators *(lines, line)* the streets of the parade route.
9. The floats *(seems, seem)* lively and colorful.
10. Mexican Americans *(views, view)* the festivities with pride.
11. We *(has, have)* learned about Mexican traditions.
12. Many immigrants *(has, have)* brought new traditions from their homelands.
13. Mexican ballads *(is, are)* heard in the Southwest.
14. In Spanish, ballads *(is, are)* called *corridos*.
15. What subjects *(does, do)* these ballads describe?
16. In them, heroes' lives *(has, have)* been recorded.
17. Everyday people *(does, do)* appear in ballads, too.
18. Historians *(has, have)* begun to record these ballads.
19. They *(is, are)* trying to save these ballads.
20. *(Does, Do)* Horacio know any *corridos*?

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Subject-Verb Agreement B

USAGE

8b. A verb should agree in number with its subject.

(1) Singular subjects take singular verbs.
(2) Plural subjects take plural verbs.

EXAMPLE **Is she taking** biology class this year? [The singular helping verb *Is* agrees with the singular subject *she*.]

EXERCISE Underline the verb in each of the following sentences. If the subject and verb do not agree, write the correct verb form above the error. If the sentence is already correct, write *C*.

Example **1.** My cousins ~~is~~ are bringing that delicious cinnamon bread.

1. Two of the sparrows is eating at the bird feeder.

2. Each morning I look out my window at the sunrise.

3. No, he do not sing and dance.

4. After three months, the experiment have been judged a success.

5. The children smile for the camera.

6. The singers is applauding for the winners.

7. They wave to the audience.

8. That tree have still not lost all its leaves.

9. After every performance, she bow.

10. Outside on the playground, children laugh.

11. This evening, Frank are not needed at rehearsal.

12. The geese leaves our town during the winter.

13. Mario wants the last orange.

14. We has been waiting for more than two hours.

15. Her sister have that CD.

16. They run together every morning.

17. Sophia need a new winter coat.

18. He always eat breakfast.

19. Jeremy does not expect any problems with the new equipment.

20. That bread smell delicious.

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Subject-Verb Agreement C

8c. The number of a subject is not changed by a phrase following the subject.

EXAMPLE The phases **of the moon** are caused by changes in the amount of sunlight reflected by the moon. [The plural helping verb *are* agrees with the plural subject *phases*.]

USAGE

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, circle the phrase following the subject. Then, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

Example **1.** The moon (in the night sky) *(are, is)* a beautiful sight.

1. People throughout history *(has, have)* been fascinated by the moon.
2. The distance to the moon *(is, are)* 384,403 kilometers (238,857 miles).
3. The features of the moon *(is, are)* seen through powerful telescopes.
4. The sun, like the earth, *(influences, influence)* the moon's motion.
5. The moon's orbit around the earth *(takes, take)* about 27 days, 8 hours.
6. The earth, at the same time, *(moves, move)* around the sun.
7. A full moon, on the average, *(occurs, occur)* every 29 1/2 days.
8. Tides on the earth *(rises, rise)* according to the moon's gravitational pull.
9. Photography from lunar-orbiting vehicles *(shows, show)* features on the moon's surface.
10. Exploration of the moon *(continues, continue)*.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, circle the prepositional phrase following the subject. Then, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

Example **1.** The contributions (of immigrants) *(has, have)* enriched many countries.

11. The names of some American Jewish authors *(is, are)* well known.
12. A famous author of short stories and novels *(is, are)* Bernard Malamud.
13. Jewish writers of fiction *(includes, include)* Saul Bellow.
14. A Nobel Prize in literature *(was, were)* awarded to Saul Bellow.
15. Another writer of Jewish descent *(is, are)* Philip Roth.

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