20 Singular and plural verb forms

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a Health and education are top priorities for the new government.
  b Health and education is top priority for the new government.
2 a The number of students going on to higher education has increased.
  b The number of students going on to higher education have increased.

We use a singular verb form (*is, has, makes, needs,* etc.):

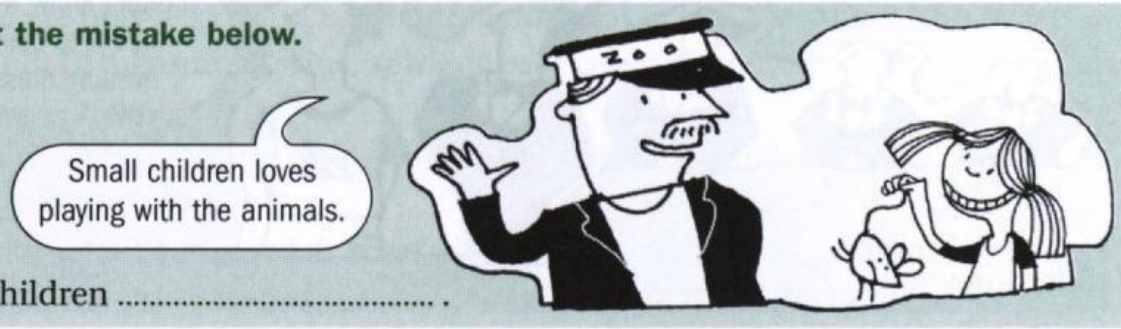
- after a singular noun
  *Each **team has** eleven players.*
  ***Everybody needs** a minimum amount of sleep per night.*
- after an uncountable noun
  ***Research shows** that people with pets are less likely to suffer from stress.*
- after the *number/percentage/proportion,* etc. *of*
  ***The proportion of** people living alone **has** increased.*

We use a plural verb form (*are, have, make, need,* etc.):

- after a plural noun
  *Most **people recycle** less than 30% of their waste.*
  ***Computers have** become a normal part of everyday life.*
- after two or more singular or uncountable nouns considered together
  ***Japan and the US have** similar rates of literacy.*

☆ Remember that where you use more than one verb in a sentence with the same subject, they must all be in the same form:
***The project provides** a place for children to play safely **and keeps** them out of trouble.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



Small children ..... .

3 Complete each sentence with the correct present form of the verb in brackets.

1 New technology ..... (*allow*) us to analyse the data in seconds.
2 Older people often ..... (*eat*) less and ..... (*need*) less sleep.
3 Advances in medicine ..... (*mean*) that people are living longer.
4 Access to clean drinking water ..... (*be*) a basic human right.
5 Everyone ..... (*receive*) a welcome pack on the first day.
6 Fish and meat ..... (*be*) both sources of protein.
7 The number of places available ..... (*vary*) each year.
8 Mobile phones ..... (*have*) changed the way we communicate.

LIVEWORKSHEETS