Subject-Verb Agreement

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Identify and correct any problems with subject-verb agreement in the following sentences. First, decide whether a sentence is correct (C) or incorrect (I). Then cross out and correct the incorrect verbs.

Example: __I__ A student in the Netherlands usually ~~learn~~ learns to speak English, French, and German in school.

____ 1. A good presenter is aware of his or her audience and use eye contact.
____ 2. Physics is a popular major at my university.
____ 3. Matthew, who is in second grade, already know how to read and write.
____ 4. One of the students in the class was selected to participate in the essay contest.
____ 5. Having good computer skills are required for many jobs today.
____ 6. The number of cars on surrounding freeways have increased.
____ 7. Brainstorming help a writer to gather ideas and avoid writer's block.
____ 8. There is several stages in the writing process, including prewriting, writing a draft, and revising.
____ 9. Because of the drought, there are not enough water for all the farmers who need it.
____ 10. All of the conference attendees receive complimentary parking passes.

EXERCISE 2

Directions: Fill in each blank space with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. The paragraph comes from a student essay on the effects of technology and is written in the present. The first one has been done for you.

Moreover, there is another way that people ***are*** (be) affected by our high-tech society. Human contact _____ (be) missing from our electronic wonderland. People who _____ (enjoy) our high-tech equipment _____ (run into) this trap without knowing it. Computers, networks, and television _____ (tend) to isolate us from one another. We _____ (send) messages through the Internet rather than _____ (meet) each other over coffee. When we _____ (be) watching TV, we often _____ (ask) people around us to be quiet until the program we _____ (be) enjoying is over, even if someone _____ (have) something important to say. Also, an individual who _____ (play) video games or _____ (sit) at a computer would probably prefer to continue playing rather than to go out with friends. He or she might end up spending less and less time communicating with others because the games _____ (be) just too attractive to stop playing. These high-tech machines _____ (make) us feel less interested in the people around us. Thus, important aspects of human interaction _____ (be) de-emphasized because of our modern technology.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXERCISE 3

Directions: The following paragraph contains errors in subject-verb agreement. Cross out each incorrect verb and write the correct form above it. The first one has been done for you.

April 15 is a well-known date in the United States. Every year on this day, everyone who ~~work~~ ***works*** must file his or her income-tax forms with both the federal and state governments. Filing these forms are no easy task. First, a person needs to decide which forms to file. For federal income taxes, there is a long form for people who wishes to itemize their deductions. This form have at least five supplementary parts, called "schedules," and a person must decide which of these, if any, to file as well. Then there is a short form for people who plans to take the "standard" deduction, one that have been pre-calculated and is the same for everyone. The state income-tax forms are separate forms, and these must also be filed. In California, there is at least four supplementary schedules that a person may need to fill out. Once a person know which ones to file, completing all of these forms are not easy either, and many people hires an accountant to help them. Regardless of whether a taxpayer choose to complete the forms on his or her own or to seek assistance, the forms must be postmarked before midnight on April 15. This day is one of the busiest for the US. Postal Service since many taxpayers find themselves finishing the whole process at the last minute.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE

There are five parallelism mistakes in each of the following passages. Identify the faulty sentences and rewrite them correctly.

Passage A

For the 10 percent of the American population that is left-handed, life is not easy. Using a pair of scissors or to write in a spiral notebook can be very difficult. The scissors and the notebook are two items designed for right-handers. Also, have you ever seen a "southpaw" take notes or writing an exam at one of those right-handed half-desks? The poor "lefty" has to twist like a yoga devotee or in the style of a circus acrobat in order to reach the paper. But a recent study proves that being left-handed can be psychologically damaging as well as tax a person physically. A survey of 2,300 people showed that 20 percent more left-handers than right-handers smoked. Could lefties smoke to relieve the tension or forgetting the problems of living in a right-handed world?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Passage B

Some people today are "survivalists." These people, because they fear some great disaster in the near future (like economic collapse or nuclear war), are preparing for a catastrophe. Hoarding food, stockpiling weapons, and the achievement of self-sufficiency are some of the activities of survivalists. In Arkansas, for example, one group has built a mountain fortress to defend its supplies and staying safe. Arkansas, the group feels, is the best place to be for several reasons: it is an unlikely target for nuclear attack; it offers plentiful supplies of food and water; a good climate. Some Americans feel that the attitude of survivalists is selfish and greed. These people say that such a philosophy turns society into a "dog-eat-dog" race for life. Other people believe that after a nuclear war, the world, with radiation and where there would be disease, wouldn't be worth living in.

PASSIVE VOICE

Rewrite the sentences in Passive voice. Remember the punctuation.

1. Mrs. Taylor rewrote her will before losing consciousness.

_____

2. The court should consider the defendant's clean record.

_____

3. The court will request information about the deal.

_____

4. The officers conducted a thorough drug search in that location and found 25 pounds of cocaine there.

_____

5. Mr. Hunton is building the shelter near the end of the park.

_____

6. The Plaintiff's family has owned that store since the 1950s.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IMPERSONAL PASSIVE

A. Rephrase the following sentences into impersonal passive. Write the two different forms of impersonal passive.

1. People know that drug addiction is dangerous.
   a) _____
   b) _____
2. They believe that the lunch will be delicious.
   a) _____
   b) _____
3. They think that the children are at school.
   a) _____
   b) _____
4. People said that the robbery lasted half an hour.
   a) _____
   b) _____
5. People acknowledge that he is talented.
   a) _____
   b) _____
6. The newspapers reported that he won the jackpot.
   a) _____
   b) _____
7. They think that your tea is too sweet.
   a) _____
   b) _____
8. Everybody says the old bridge will collapse.
   a) _____
   b) _____
9. People know that she is a good swimmer.
   a) _____
   b) _____
10. They say that Francis is in the hospital.
    a) _____
    b) _____

B. Look at the following sentences. Identify which form of impersonal passive is used, and write the other option.

Example:
It is said that the thief stole several wallets.
The thief is said to have stolen several wallets.

1. Sarah is known to be the prettiest girl in the class.
   _____
2. Amy Winehouse was reported to have died.
   _____
3. It is acknowledged that she is a talented painter.
   _____
4. The sun is believed to move around the Earth.
   _____
5. It is said that the pilot was drunk.
   _____
6. This kind of material is found to be poisonous.
   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS