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1. If the subject is singular (one), use a singular verb. (Generally, a singular verb ends in "s" or "es")
  2. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.
  3. If the subject is compound joined by "and," always use plural verb.
  4. If the subject is compound joined by "or" or "nor," look at the subject closest to the verb and follow rules #1 and #2.
- Examples:
- The book or pencils are on the desk.
  - Neither the children nor Dad knows where the bank is located.

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**D. Controlling Shifts in Paragraphs**

Although the main tense in the following paragraph is past, the writer correctly shifts to present tense twice. Find these two verbs in present tense. If you encounter difficulty, try reading the paragraph aloud.

The Inuit of the Northwest regularly burned land to increase open space for agriculture. In fact, the early settlers of Boston found so few trees that they had to row out to the islands in the harbor to obtain fuel. Just how far north this practice extended is uncertain, but the Saco River in southern Maine appears to have been the original northern boundary of the agricultural cleavage. Then, pressured by European settlement, the Inuit extended their systematic burning far northward, even into the Maritime Province of Canada. (adapted from May and Fair, *The Atlantic Shore*)

Read the following paragraph through, and determine the main tense. Then reread it and circle the three verbs that shift incorrectly from the main tense.

For the past seven years, I have called myself a swimmer. Swimming, my one sport, provides a necessary outlet for my abundant energy. I have always drawn satisfaction from exertion, wearing my muscles to their limits. I don't know why pushing forward in the water, as my muscles cried out in pain, sets off a booming cheer in my head. Many times when I rounded the turn for the last lap of a race, my complaining muscles went to downright and able to the finish. My mind, however, presses the pedal to the floor and yells, "FASTER!" The moment that I touched the wall my muscles relax, the pain subsides. I am pleased to have passed the point of conflict. (adapted from Brendon Beckman, "Warmer")

You will notice several shifts in tense in the following paragraph describing action in a fictional narrative. Find the six faulty shifts in tense.

In "The Use of Force" William Carlos Williams describes a struggle involving a doctor, one parent, and their young daughter. The doctor must detach a throat culture from the girl, who has subjected to having a sore throat. This clinically simple task is rendered by the frightened and uncooperative patient, Mathilda Olson. Adding to the doctor's difficulties were the parents, who had to struggle with their own conflicting emotions. They want their daughter helped, but they did not trust the doctor to do the right thing. Sensitive to the parents' anxiety, the doctor became more and more frustrated by Mathilda's resistance. Williams gives considerable attention to how each of the Olsons react, but it is clear that his main interest was in the doctor and his responses. (Adapted from a student essay.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject-Verb Agreement



Circle the verb in each sentence that agrees in number with the subject.

1. Thanksgiving (has have) always been my favorite holiday.
2. My entire family (get gets) together on Thanksgiving.
3. We all (enjoys enjoy) a huge feast.
4. Aunt Mary (bring brings) the hot rolls.
5. Grandma and Grandpa (bake bakes) the pumpkin pies.
6. My cousin Tony always (gives give) me his cranberry sauce.
7. He (let lets) my brother eat his applesauce.
8. Sauces (lis are) not Tony's favorite part of the meal.
9. My aunts (takes take) turns washing dishes after dinner.
10. Then the whole gang (play plays) games for hours.
11. Tony and my brother (likes like) to play chess.
12. I always (plays play) cards with my aunts and uncles.
13. Mom and Dad usually (throw throws) darts.
14. Everyone (find finds) something fun to do.
15. My family never (want wants) to go home on Thanksgiving.

Subject-verb challenge 1

Find the words in the word bank that you need to complete the sentences below. You can use a word more than once or not at all.

(Use the verb tables for *to be*, *to do* and *to have*, if you need to.)

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ going out tonight.
2. The sisters \_\_\_\_\_ the goal-scorers in the last match.
3. These \_\_\_\_\_ my parents.
4. Mr Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_ been teaching RE for more than a year now.
5. This is our favourite café and we \_\_\_\_\_ here often.
6. The boys \_\_\_\_\_ finished their writing already.
7. I know you \_\_\_\_\_ wrong about this.
8. There \_\_\_\_\_ two gym machines working.
9. There \_\_\_\_\_ three glue sticks left.
10. 'We \_\_\_\_\_ robbed,' said the bank manager.
11. 'I \_\_\_\_\_ sorry but the experiments \_\_\_\_\_ failed,' said the teacher.
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ very angry that he lost the contest.

Word bank:

were	are	was	is
has	have	am	comes
			come

Extension task:

Create your own sentences for was/were and is/are.

.....

.....

.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Subjects and Predicates

**Directions:** Circle the subject and underline the predicate in each sentence.

1. Cassie kicked Nick during lunch.
2. My Aunt Laura bought me a new skirt for my birthday.
3. Our elementary is the best school in Texas.
4. My friends and I went to the mall this weekend.
5. Marissa and Michael like playing football.
6. The entire class were doing recess.
7. My favorite movie is Star Wars.
8. Eric's brand new car is the color red.
9. The brown dog dug a hole in my yard.
10. Mr. Garcia teaches at Jefferson Elementary.

**Directions:** Identify the underlined part in each sentence as the subject or predicate.

11. People play around the neighborhood.
12. Some class members use crayons.
13. I like checking out books at the library.
14. John knocked the ball to David.
15. My best friend Justin went to Disneyland.
16. Gracie had her fight with the dog.
17. The water in the swimming pool was so cold.
18. Flyin' Burrito is out of stock.
19. Richard's class should have exercised.
20. I paid a tutor called What Not to Do?

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Subject-verb agreement exercise 5 answer key. Subject verb agreement exercise 4 answer key. Easy subject verb agreement exercises. Subject verb agreement grade 5 exercises.

Nobody knows the problem I saw. It was B. 22. The costs of the cost had a cost for Wendy's Washateria, all dryers \_\_\_\_\_ six quarters before dried wet clothes dry. Warning of Place 24. 11. IS D. has had meaning means means "here \_\_\_\_\_ the box of broken appliances that you promised to repair", said Sue, his wife. Now here (it's, there are) only one left! 20. The dead trees and peeled paint, together with the broken windows and the shutters, \_\_\_\_\_ believe that the evil spirits pursue the deserted House Sinclair. Phillips \_\_\_\_\_ that class is precious and should not be wasted because of someone's immature joke. The members of the Committee lead a very different life in private. (They are, are) the news to five or are you? 13. Where \_\_\_\_\_ the earrings I left on the bathroom sink? Goble's swallows swallowed up to Wendy's Washateria, each of the industrial washing machines \_\_\_\_\_ so with force during the spin cycle that new customers rush out, convinced that an earthquake shakes the building. Mathematics is John's favorite matter, while the civic is Andrea's favorite subject. George and Tamara don't want to see that movie. A. Sheila really needs to buy a dishwasher. These scissors \_\_\_\_\_ so boring that I'm not sure I can cut the butter with them! A. (are) the tweezers in this drawer? 5. The players, as well as the captain, want to win. Not only the fat caterpillars, but also the rabbits of my neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ have chewed my poor tomato plants with stem without leaves. Made B. or my shoes or your coat (they are, are) always on the floor. Watch C. The news is at five or are you? The prime minister, together with his wife, (greet, greets) the press cordially. He had that the class \_\_\_\_\_ on the solution suffocating condition of the room; Ten students want to open the window, but the others remember the flood of frightened cockroaches that have been paid in the last time Frampton released the window from the frame. IS was physical \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated that I was the simplest subject of Jerry this semester. The Committee carefully discuss these questions. Then write the phrases with the operating package 6 agreement of the subject verb subject, 5 agreement of the verb of the object of the exercise, subject, agreement of the verb à èvelop à € œEnened 5, verb, exercise, subject/verb ps ps -16, agreement on the matter is free of exercise 1, free English grammar e-book, verb agreement, working sheet of agreement on the subject, grammar, agreement the dog or cats (IS, are) beyond outside. The players, as well as the captain, (want, wants) to win. Made Ha Make Make War had asteroids and comets that slammed against the land \_\_\_\_\_ Marge; She tries to remain the most possible under the protective coverage of her roof. The dead trees and peeled paint, together with the broken windows and the shutters, \_\_\_\_\_ everyone believe that the evil spirits pursue the deserted house synclair. 25. The dog or cats are out. It looks like B. All the CDs, even the scratched ones, are in this case. All the CDs, even the scratched ones, (they are, are) in this case. 18. Passages: 1. 2. Nobody (I know, know) the problem I have seen. 3. One hundred and fifty Gallon \_\_\_\_\_ the quantity of liquid that the average carpet of the living room can absorb. Each bowl of cereals and saucapan plate \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the unsoponate hands of Sheila and shattered on the hard tile of the kitchen floor. 8. 7. Benito (he does not do it) knows the answer. D. Agreement of the verb 21. When we make simple English phrases, we usually follow the object-verb-object scheme. IS was the favorite science fiction film or aliens \_\_\_\_\_ . I. Where \_\_\_\_\_ the earrings I left on the bathroom sink? The film, including all the previews, (take, take) about two hours to watch. Agreement of Active, grammar, verb www.odj.gov.hk Unit 1 Basic Basic Phrase A. Go to the example of the answers: the tourism industry has found 10 free books Anacrine.com 19. State adverb 25. Check your answers with the interactive version of the exercise. 23. Exercise 5 Indications: Choose the current temporal verb module correct for the following sentences. Now only one remains! 20. 16. I do not agree in disagreement continues not to agree when the fire alarm starts playing, the lady everyone knows what belongs to her, for each pen, pencil and paper clip \_\_\_\_\_ a small connected flag to the full name of Agnes. There were (there were) fifteen candies in that bag, or any word on the subject, verb www.hotelverband.at 4 à Å 5 rewriting accommodation agreement - Rescossa for a fee by the owner 5.1 If the accommodation agreement provides for a phrase by teflebooks.com 6 V and paragraph Writing chapter 1 capitalization exercise 1.5 fill in the empty spaces in the following sentences with the correct form of be. 24. None of those sharks surrounding your boogie boogie \_\_\_\_\_ quite hungry to bite. Was was none of those sharks surrounding your boogie boogie \_\_\_\_\_ quite hungry to bite. I knew he knows that Know Know Rocks Rock shook everyone at Wendy's Washateria, even Myra and Old Mrs. 19. B. Simmons all the rights reserved. Make D. Check your answers with the interactive version of the year. 1 NAME DATA OBJECT CONTENT EXERCISE 5 INTERESTIONS: Choose the current temporal verb module correct for the following sentences. One of my sisters (it's, are) traveling to France. Eight dollars are the price of a movie these days. 14. He believes that she believed believes à Á © 1997-2014 by Robin L. 21. Oh no! That stupid cat made them again in the unloading! A. They were C. Elativa 20. Rachel discovered this fact after taking a long shower when the It was not hidden inside the tank. The man with all birds (live, lives) in my way. Save time and discover the engaging engaging curriculum your class. Or my shoes or coat are always on the floor. Hoff is one of those teachers who \_\_\_\_\_ that class continues on the lawn outside. 6. Benito does not know the answer. He had seemed 2 4. It seemed to seem that he seemed even after winning the away game, the girl's basketball team \_\_\_\_\_ dark because the coach Cox insist on the fact that the players return to their hotel rooms to study for the next week lessons. 9. Wanted to have wishes wishes 14. George and Tamara (it doesn't) want to see that movie. They are 3. 17. C. There were fifteen candies in that bag. Or the answer is acceptable. Webster; \_\_\_\_\_ who could afford his washing machine and dryer at home. The film, including all the previews, takes about two hours to watch. Review and evaluated by trusted teachers and credentials. The prime minister, together with his wife, cordially greets the press. Is that Agnes never loses a single possession. Try it for free 1. Mathematics (Son, Are) John's favorite topic, while the civic (is, is) Andrea's favorite subject. Specific 26. 4. My mother or father are coming to the meeting. 10. Your pants (they are, are) from the detergent. Annie and her brothers (they are, are) at school. He tagged: à è exercise, agreement, subject, verb, agreement of verb subject, exercise 5 information could, should and exercise, exercise, exercise, exercise, present and do, do or exercise, order of words for the Adjectives, Warnings of operating way, enough and too much exercise, Exercise 5: Paraphrasing Exercise 5: Paraphrasing, Exercise 5: Paraphrasing Choose the correct form of the Word that agrees with the topic. Put the topic and adjectives as "fat", "THIN" etc. The etc. They had the good jewel that dad gave to Sara for the degree \_\_\_\_\_ in more On the cheap leather wallet that David has obtained as a reward for his reward for his reward, ending up high school. It was that they are the eight slots on Pam's Pam's Great toaster \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody has to fight on frozen waffle during breakfast. Or the answer (it's, are) acceptable. She brings Carol, the laboratory assistant, a biscuit of oatmeal and, as a reward, ends her relationship. Someone - perhaps Emmanuel or Paul - \_\_\_\_\_ The right wine to be served with lasagna of earthworms. 20. IS were 21. 12. Each of those books (it's, it's) fiction. He made the most recent pair of glasses by C. Elton \_\_\_\_\_ The five names 22. The members of the Committee (Lead, Lead) very different lives in private. Annie and her brothers are at school. The man with all birds lives on my way. Your pants are to the detergent. He had Will insists insists, insisting on the fact that he insisted on the fact that my mother or father Madam (she is) come to the meeting. \$ 15. Eight dollars (they are, are) the price of a movie these days. The Committee (debate, debate) these questions carefully. Hoff and the lady are the tweezers in this drawer? Each of those books is fiction. It seemed D. Fai 2. Statistics \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a favorite matter of Matt because for fifty minutes three times a week can study the beautiful curls on the back of Betty's head. Concern worries worried about worrying 7. The appearance seems that it seemed one hundred and fifty gallons \_\_\_\_\_ the quantity of liquid that the average carpet of the living room can absorb. One of my sisters is a trip to France. She had two cups of peppers Jalapeno sliced \_\_\_\_\_ Extreme for a single burrito filling lot, but this is the quantity in Felipe's recipe. Warning of time 23. Back to the questions name Date object-verb agreement à è èvelop à € œEnened 5 This flyer accompanies the exercise 5 of grammatical bytes! The answers by making the interactive version of the exercise at this address: Choose the current temporal verb module correct for the following sentences. under.

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