

Lesson One: Intervening Phrases

Concept: A **verb** should agree with its **subject** in number. A singular subject must have a singular verb and a plural subject must have a plural verb. Intervening phrases and clauses do not affect **subject** - **verb** agreement.

Examples: The **discovery** of mummies **interests** many people.
John, accompanied by Gracie, **goes** to the movie every Saturday.
The **rivers** that bordered Mesopotamia **are** the Tigris and the Euphrates.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb from the choices in parentheses.

1. The paper in those boxes (is, are) for the copy machine.
2. Her computer plus her purse (was, were) left in her car.
3. The London Bridge, as well as several other bridges, (spans, span) the Thames River.
4. A traffic light in front of steady streams of traffic (keeps, keep) the movement of vehicles under control.
5. Each entry within the guidelines (receives, receive) a thorough reading.

Lesson Two: Intervening Phrases

Concept: A **verb** should agree with its **subject** in number. A singular subject must have a singular verb and a plural subject must have a plural verb. Intervening phrases and clauses do not affect **subject - verb** agreement

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb from the choices in parentheses. Identify the intervening phrase and write its type.

1. This batch of cute, little kittens (is, are) ready to be sold.
2. The coach, as well as the fans, (was, were) disappointed in the team's performance.
3. The arrival of the new costumes (has, have) caused excitement among the cast of the play.
4. The artwork, in addition to the jewelry, (are, is) to be auctioned off in May.
5. An acre of trees and meadows (surrounds, surround) the house.

Lesson Three: Intervening Phrases and Clauses

Concept: A **verb** should agree with its **subject** in number. A singular subject must have a singular verb and a plural subject must have a plural verb. Intervening phrases and clauses do not affect **subject - verb** agreement

Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Then circle the correct form of the verb from the choices in parentheses. Identify the intervening phrase or clause and write its type.

1. Linda, one of my good friends, (visits, visit) England every year.
2. Bilbo Baggins, who faces goblins, trolls, and dragons, (is, are) the protagonist of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.
3. A mask from the South Seas, along with two feather capes made in Peru, (was, were) featured in the museum.
4. The doctor, together with his nurses, (is, are) attending a conference.
5. The actress signing autographs (has, have) won two awards.

Lesson Four : RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Term reminder: an *ANTECEDENT* is a word that means the original noun to which the **pronoun** refers. In the case of a relative pronoun, the *antecedent* is the word that is being modified.

Ex: *John* received the award. **He** was very excited. (**pronoun**)

The award was given to ten *students* **who**, like John, have achieved excellence in academics while facing hardships at home. (**relative pronoun**)

Concept: a verb should agree with its subject in number. When **RELATIVE PRONOUNS** like **who, which, or that** act as a subject of a subordinating clause, its verb will be singular or plural depending on the number of the antecedent. *Tricky situation: When preceded by “one of [plural noun]”, the relative pronoun takes a plural word. When preceded by “the only one of [plural word]”, the relative pronoun takes a singular verb.*

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb from the choices in the parentheses.

1. Patience is one of the requirements that (makes, make) a good leader.
2. Mary remains one of my friends who (stands, stand) by me in this upheaval.
3. Patience happens to be the only one of the requirements for leadership that (is, are) natural for me.
4. The assistant principal assigns detention to students who (is, are) tardy six times.
5. She is one of those people who (is, are) always punctual.

Lesson Five: Compound Subjects

Concept: A compound subject consists of 2 or more nouns/pronouns that are joined by a conjunction and have the same verb. The parts of a compound subject are connected by *and*, *or*, *nor*, *either-or*, and *neither-nor*. A compound subject joined by *and* is generally plural; however, if the two subjects form a “unit” then it is considered singular. If one or more singular subjects are joined to one or more plural subjects by *or* or *nor*, the subject closest to the verb determines the agreement.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. Bacon and eggs (is, are) a popular breakfast combination.
2. The owner and manager, Mr. Brown, (runs, run) the store.
3. Either the twins or John (is going, are going) to take charge when Mr. Brown is absent.
4. Macaroni and cheese (tastes, taste) best when it's hot.
5. Neither the managers nor the owner (has signed, have signed) yet.

Lesson Six: Collective Nouns

Concept: A collective noun is a noun that is singular in form but represents a group of persons or a collection of objects usually considered as a unit. Collective nouns may be either singular or plural, depending on their use in the sentence. Words such as *crowd, troop, herd, team, people, flock, jury, family, or committee*, are collective nouns.

People often behave in the same manner, doing one thing in unison with the other members of their group. When these people (or animals) are part of a collective noun, that noun becomes singular and requires singular verbs and pronouns.

Examples: The band **is** going to the Orange Bowl this year. **Considered one unit.**

The band, as usual, **were** straggling into the auditorium in groups of two or three. **Here, each member is distinct and have formed groups of 2-3. This takes a plural form of the verb.**

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. The members of the jury (has returned, have returned) to their homes.
2. The choir (was told, were told) to bring their hymnals.
3. The family (has given, have given) their contributions.
4. The family (has been, have been) to over five countries during this vacation.
5. The public (demands, demand) a solution to the problem.

Lesson Seven: Nouns that look like plurals

Concept: Nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning agree with singular verbs. Some of these nouns name branches of knowledge: *acoustics*, *aesthetics*, *civics*, *economics*, *gymnastics*, *mathematics*, *physics*, *politics*, and *social studies*. Others are singular in meaning because, like collective nouns, they name singular units: *confetti*, *macaroni*, *measles*, *molasses*, *news*, *ricketts*, and so on.

Some of these words are especially tricky. When *ethics* and *politics*, for example, name characteristics or qualities rather than branches of knowledge, their meanings are plural. ** Also, such words as *eyeglasses*, *pliers*, *scissors*, and *trousers (pants)* generally take plural verbs although they name single items.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. Does Paul know that his pants (has been sent, have been sent) to the cleaners?
2. Physics (attempts, attempt) to explain matter, energy, and their interaction.
3. Athletics (is, are) popular at North Gwinnett High School.
4. Eyeglasses (was prescribed, were prescribed) by Rachel's ophthalmologist.
5. Measles (is, are) contagious.

Lesson Eight: Indefinite Pronouns

Concept: The following pronouns are singular: *each, either, neither, one, no one, everyone, anyone, someone, anybody, somebody, and everybody*. The following pronouns are plural: *several, few, both, and many*. *The pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* usually take a singular verb if the antecedent is singular and a plural verb if the antecedent is plural.

Examples: Some of the movie **was** hilarious.

Some of the actors in the movie **were** hilarious.

Most of the vote **is** in by seven o'clock on election day.

Most of the votes **are** in by seven o'clock on election day.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. Everybody living in Suwanee (goes, go) to North Gwinnett High School.
2. All of our clothes (is, are) still unpacked.
3. None of the people in the theater (was, were) pleased with the movie.
4. Every one of these jeans (is, are) too small.
5. All of the fruit (has spoiled, have spoiled).

Lesson Nine: Indefinite Pronouns

Concept: A verb should agree with its subject in number. The following pronouns are singular: *each, either, neither, one, no one, everyone, anyone, someone, anybody, somebody, and everybody*. The following pronouns are plural: *several, few, both, and many*. *The pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* usually take a singular verb if the antecedent is singular and a plural verb if the antecedent is plural.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. No one (knows, know) the origin of the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.
2. Most of the program (was, were) new to me.
3. (Is, Are) any of the bacon left?
4. Some of the cotton material imported from Italy (was, were) used for her wedding dress.

Lesson Ten

Concept: A verb should agree with its subject in number. The following pronouns are singular: *each, either, neither, one, no one, everyone, anyone, someone, anybody, somebody, and everybody*. The following pronouns are plural: *several, few, both, and many*. *The pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* usually take a singular verb if the antecedent is singular and a plural verb if the antecedent is plural.

In each sentence, underline the subject. Then, circle the correct form of the verb or verb phrase from the choices in parentheses.

1. I wondered if all of the cupcakes that Barbara baked last night (was, were) gone.
2. Most of the programs (was, were) new to me.
3. Each of these bags (has been examined, have been examined).
4. (Is, Are) any of the men going by plane?
5. We needed a ball but none of the balls (was, were) available.

Answers: Lessons 1-5

One	Two	Three	Four	Five
I. is	1. is	1. visits	1.make	1. is
2. was	2. was	2. is	2.stand	2. runs
3. spans	3. has	3. was	3.is	3. is going
4. keeps	4. is	4. is	4.are	4. tastes
5. receives	5. surrounds	5. has	5.are	5. has signed

Answers for Lessons 6-10

Lesson 6

1. have returned
2. were told
3. have given
4. has been divided
5. demands

Lesson 7

1. have been sent
2. attempts
3. are
4. were prescribed
5. is

Lesson 8

1. goes
2. are
3. were
4. is
5. has spoiled

Lesson 9

1. knows
2. was
3. is
4. was

Lesson 10

1. were
2. were
3. has been examined
4. are
5. were