

Subject-Verb Agreement Review and Quiz

DIRECTIONS: In the quiz questions below, choose the correct verb so that subject and verb agree. The first time you take this quiz, you should refer to the clues on the right. Practice taking this quiz until you can answer all the questions correctly without the clues.

1-2	Make the subject and verb agree when words intervene between them.
3	The grammatical number of the subject does not change with the addition of expressions beginning with such words as the following: <i>accompanied by, along with, as well as, in addition to, including, no less than, not to mention, together with.</i>
4-6	Subjects joined by <i>and</i> are usually plural
7-9	Singular subjects joined by <i>or, either . . . or, neither . . . nor</i> take a singular verb.
10-11	If one subject is singular and one is plural, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.
12-13	The verb also agrees with the nearer subject in person.
14	Do not let inverted word order cause you to make a mistake in agreement.
15-17	When used as subjects, such words as <i>each, either, one, everybody, and anyone</i> regularly take singular verbs.
18-19	<i>Every</i> or <i>each</i> preceding singular subjects joined by <i>and</i> calls for a singular verb.
20-23	Collective nouns take a singular verb when they refer to the group as a unit.
24-26	Collective nouns take a plural verb when they refer to individuals or parts of the group.
27-30	Some nouns (such as <i>athletics, politics, series, deer, and sheep</i>) can be either singular or plural depending on meaning.

Warm-Up Quiz

1: The rhythm of the pounding waves _____ calming.

- is
- are

2: All of the dogs in the neighborhood _____ barking.

- were
- was

3: A high tax, not to mention unemployment, _____ votes.

- influence
- influences

4: My friends and my mother _____ each other.

like

likes

5: **The team and the band _____ on the field.**

was

were

6: **Building a good marriage and building a good log fire _____ similar in many ways.**

is

are

7: **John or Doris _____ to us regularly.**

write

writes

8: **Either Patty or Tom _____ asked to lead the meeting.**

was

were

9: **Neither Carol nor Ted _____ excluded from the meeting.**

is

are

10: **Neither the basket nor the apples _____ expensive.**

was

were

11: **Neither the apples nor the basket _____ expensive.**

was

were

12: **Either Maria or you _____ late for class.**

was

were

13: **Either you or Maria _____ late for class.**

was

were

14: **Hardest hit by the high temperatures and drought _____ the farmers.**

was

were

15: **Neither of them _____ going to the show.**

like

likes

16: **Each of them _____ a good seat.**

has

have

17: **Everybody in the class _____ tickets.**

- has
- have

18: Every silver knife, fork, and spoon _____ to be counted.

- has
- have

19: Each cat and each dog _____ its own toy.

- has
- have

20: The committee _____ meeting today.

- is
- are

21: Ten million gallons of oil _____ a lot of oil.

- is
- are

22: The jury _____ today.

- vote
- votes

23: The number _____ very small.

- is
- are

24: A number of students _____ absent.

- was
- were

25: Ten million gallons of oil _____ spilled.

- was
- were

26: The majority of us _____ in favor.

- is
- are

27: Statistics _____ an interesting subject.

- is
- are

28: Statistics _____ often misleading.

- is
- are

29: The sheep _____ when the gate is left open.

- stray
- strays

30: Sheep _____ when the gate is left open.

- stray
 - strays
-

Advanced Quiz

1: Of all university courses, mathematics probably _____ the most fear.

- produce
- produces

2: Living in big cities almost always _____ stress because of traffic jams, too few parking spaces, and too many people.

- cause
- causes

3: The way of life in small villages far from big cities _____ mostly quiet because there are few people.

- is
- are

4: In many countries, governments _____ the mass media through censorship.

- control
- controls

5: Sometimes a government covertly _____ the general population by releasing disinformation through the mass media.

- influence
- influences

6: Michael Jackson, along with his brothers and support team, _____ many key cities around the world every year.

- visit
- visits

7: Least considered in the latest bombing campaign _____ the innocent victims.

- was
- were

8: Each cat and each dog in this animal shelter _____ eventually placed in a good home.

- is
- are

9: The deer standing silently next to the large tree _____ not seen by the two hunters.

- was
- were

10: Neither the students nor the teacher _____ able to find the solution immediately.

- was
- were