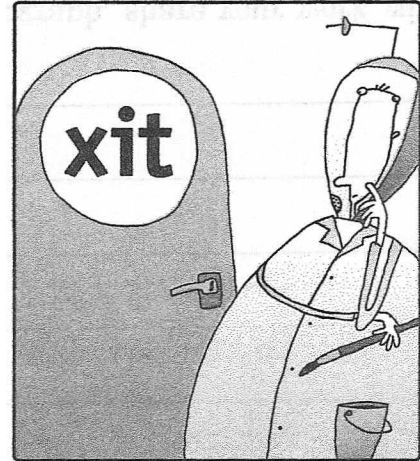


Subject-Verb Agreement 1

Subjects and verbs used together must agree in number. That is, they must both be singular or plural. In order to check for subject-verb agreement, you must first identify the main subject and its verb. Underlining the main subject once and the verb twice in your rough drafts will help you look for subject-verb agreement in your own writing. (Turn to pages 88-89 in *Write Source 2000* for help with special kinds of agreement problems.)



EXAMPLES

Rolfe studies his paint job.

(*Rolfe* is a singular subject; *studies* is a singular verb.)

For a present-tense verb to agree with a plural subject (*birds, houses, children, geese, etc.*), the verb *must not end* in s.

The janitors study Rolfe's painting mistake.

(*Janitors* is a plural subject; *study* is a plural present-tense verb.)

The janitors from the district office try a new paint remover.

(*Janitors*, not office, is the plural subject. *Office* is the object of the preposition *from*.)

Directions

Underline the subject once and the verb twice in the following sentences. In the space provided, identify the subject and verb as singular *S* or plural *P*. Don't be fooled by a prepositional phrase that comes between the subject and the verb. The verb must agree with the subject. The first sentence has been done for you.

- _____ 1. The examiner tests at least 10 new drivers each day.
- _____ 2. Most new drivers appear very nervous before their tests.
- _____ 3. Examiners follow a checklist when testing.
- _____ 4. An older man, during his test, stops_suddenly in the middle of a road.
- _____ 5. He then steps on the gas just as suddenly.

- _____ 6. One nervous teenager searches frantically through his pockets for his car keys.
- _____ 7. The examiner in the meantime examines his car.
- _____ 8. Two happy new drivers leave the testing center with their licenses.
- _____ 9. A middle-aged woman just misses another car in the parking lot.
- _____ 10. She looks very nervous behind the wheel of her car.