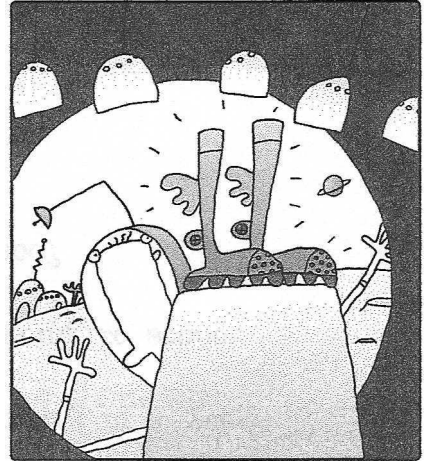


Subject-Verb Agreement 2

It's common to find sentences in which the subjects and verbs don't agree. For example, someone might incorrectly write *The committee have adjourned* rather than *The committee has adjourned*. It's an easy mistake to make.

These activities focus on two particular problems with subject-verb agreement: sentences with collective nouns and sentences in which the subject comes after the verb. (Turn to pages 88-89 in *Write Source 2000* for explanations and examples.)



EXAMPLES

The team is preparing for its big game.

(The collective noun *team* is singular, the verb *is* is singular, and the pronoun *its* is singular. All three items are consistently singular. Make sure that collective noun-verb-pronoun combinations stay consistent.)

Directions

Underline the subject (a collective noun) for each set of verbs below; then circle the verb that agrees in number with the subject. The first one has been done for you.

1. The crowd in the gym (is, are) cheering loudly.
2. Measles (has, have) kept several of the best players home all week.
3. The team (is, are) required to return their jerseys after the season.
4. The pair of boots I want (is, are) in the window.
5. Mathematics (has, have) been a challenge for me.
6. The committee (has, have) voted in favor of a neighborhood party.
7. Our class (is, are) planning a square dance.
8. The faculty (is, are) asked to attend the dance.

Directions

These sentences have unusual word order. Underline the subject in each sentence below. (It will come after a helping or main verb.) Then circle the verb or helping verb that agrees with the subject. The first one has been done for you.

1. (Has, Have) your brother seen that movie?
2. There on the horizon (is, are) the cloudlike formations.
3. Beyond the small town (was, were) a large field of prairie-dog burrows.
4. (Has, Have) any of your relatives ever been to Colorado?
5. (Wasn't, Weren't) Bob and Sandy going to baby-sit for your brother?
6. There (is, are) a crowd gathering in front of the school.
7. There (go, goes) Sasha, followed by Andy.
8. Across the river (are, is) two new subdivisions.
9. Under the old buildings (is, are) a dark tunnel.
10. Over there (is, are) the paper for the project.
11. (Is, Are) Ellie, Meggie, or Bill going to the dance.
12. Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house (goes, go) we.
13. (Is, Are) Blaire, Peter, and Paul taking chemistry next year?
14. There (is, are) many important reasons for going to school.
15. (Do, Does) most of the America's pets eat dry food?