

Every sentence must have a subject and a verb. Subjects and verbs must have matching forms to show their relation. This relation is called agreement. Every verb must agree with its subject in **number**: singular or plural.

### Examples

**Singular:** **She does** an excellent job.

**Julio has** a new car.

**Was Karen** at home?

The **car is** in the garage.

**Plural:** **They do** an excellent job.

**Julio and Maria have** a new car.

**Were Karen and Jill** at home?

The **cars are** in the garage.

**Note:**



**Beware of phrases that appear between the subject and the verb.**

### Examples

One of the glasses was broken.

One ~~of the glasses~~ was broken.

**One** is the subject of the sentence, not glasses.

The pictures on the wall were dusty.

The pictures ~~on the wall~~ were dusty.

**Pictures** is the subject of the sentence, not wall.

Some of the girls on the team play very well.

Some ~~of the girls on the team~~ play very well.

**Some** is the subject of the sentence.

## Hints for Subject-Verb Agreement

Some words may sound like plural words but are actually singular.  
The following words, called indefinite pronouns, always take singular verbs.

<i>(-one words)</i>	<i>(-body words)</i>	<i>(-thing words)</i>	<i>(others)</i>
one	nobody	nothing	each
anyone	anybody	anything	either
everyone	everybody	everything	neither
someone	somebody	something	

### Examples

**Wrong:** Everyone in the bands know that tune.  
**Correct:** ~~Everyone in the bands~~ **knows** that tune.

**Wrong:** Everybody at Florida colleges take the CLAST exam.  
**Correct:** ~~Everybody at Florida colleges~~ **takes** the CLAST exam.

**Wrong:** Neither of the boys work in Okeechobee.  
**Correct:** ~~Neither of the boys~~ **works** in Okeechobee.

**Wrong:** Everything in the world's oceans serve a purpose.  
**Correct:** ~~Everything in the world's oceans~~ **serves** a purpose.

Some words are always plural. The following words are plural.

several      few      both      many      all



**Note:** In many cases, if the subject ends in "s" the verb does not.

### Example

The girl sings in the choir. (one girl)  
The girls sing in the choir. (more than one girl)

## Exercise

For numbers 1 through 12, choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

- 1 The relatives on my side of the family \_\_\_\_\_ in El Paso, Texas.  
A live  
B lives  
C has lived  
D was living
- 2 Christmas candles \_\_\_\_\_ a pleasant effect during the holidays.  
F creates  
G create  
H has created  
J was creating
- 3 An emergency spare tire \_\_\_\_\_ in the trunk of the car.  
A are  
B is  
C were kept  
D have been kept
- 4 Black-light bulbs \_\_\_\_\_ with an eerie, purple light.  
F glows  
G glow  
H glowing  
J was glowing
- 5 One of those bulbs \_\_\_\_\_ to last two years.  
A are guaranteed  
B is guaranteed  
C am guaranteed  
D have been guaranteed
- 6 This group of divers \_\_\_\_\_ lessons to beginners.  
F be giving  
G have given  
H gives  
J give
- 7 One of the outboard engines \_\_\_\_\_ a new propeller.  
A be needing  
B have been needing  
C need  
D needs
- 8 Several of the cars on the dealer's lot \_\_\_\_\_ by the storm.  
F is damaged  
G was damaged  
H were damaged  
J has been damaged
- 9 Walking a mile three times a week \_\_\_\_\_ many older people to stay healthy.  
A be helping  
B helps  
C help  
D am helping
- 10 Andy and Todd \_\_\_\_\_ softball every weekend.  
F plays  
G play  
H be playing  
J was playing
- 11 Trees that get the disease \_\_\_\_\_ cut down.  
A are  
B is  
C was  
D been
- 12 Their performance on the tests \_\_\_\_\_ very impressive.  
F was  
G were  
H are  
J be

**For numbers 13 through 22, choose the sentence that is written correctly.**

- 13** **A** The high school students plans a big homecoming celebration.  
**B** There is a pen and paper in the drawer.  
**C** Those fluorescent street lights give an odd glow.  
**D** One of those tires are guaranteed for 40,000 miles.
- 14** **F** Her bedspread and rug matches her curtains.  
**G** The treasurer's figures agree with the secretary's report.  
**H** The band and the chorus is performing tonight.  
**J** Dad, along with his buddies, are coming with us.
- 15** **A** Randy and Ralph have good jobs.  
**B** Carly, as well as her sisters, are good dancers.  
**C** Mary and Susan is looking for an apartment to share.  
**D** One of those men help at the church every Saturday morning.
- 16** **F** Everybody know how a fire alarm sounds.  
**G** One of the Dolphins' starters were injured in the Jets game.  
**H** Each of the 4-H Club members are going to bake cookies.  
**J** The city, as well as the county, is raising taxes this year.
- 17** **A** The movie actress and her husband is appearing at the mall.  
**B** Neither of those songs sounds good to me.  
**C** Her gentle voice and pleasant smile helps make her a good school resource officer for the sheriff's office.  
**D** Someone sitting in the bleachers of the left-field stands throw things at the players on the field.
- 18** **F** Excessive use of alcohol, caffeine, or tobacco harms a mother's unborn child.  
**G** Neither of the magazine articles give an accurate description of our Treasure Coast.  
**H** There is at least two formulas to memorize for that test.  
**J** The scratches on the car was there when I bought it.
- 19** **A** The price of those rare coins are \$450.  
**B** Months of snow storms and heavy sleet is one thing I don't miss in Florida.  
**C** The old man standing under those palm trees in the parking lot tells interesting stories.  
**D** The doctor, as well as the nurse, were pleased with the test results.
- 20** **F** Driving along roads in rush-hour traffic between Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce are often frustrating.  
**G** The first weeks that I spent playing in the band was a thrill.  
**H** Some people say that the new tax on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes is not fair.  
**J** My sister, as well as her friends, expect me to take them to the concert.
- 21** **A** Where is your homework assignments?  
**B** There are three policemen at the scene.  
**C** Bob and Mary owns that house.  
**D** Those radios belongs to Delbert.
- 22** **F** Everyone in the bleachers get wet when it rains.  
**G** Nobody in those offices does any work.  
**H** Someone who was in the hall know what really happened.  
**J** Everybody in the stands jump whenever the Gators score.