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Agreement

Subject and Verb, Pronoun and Antecedent

Diagnostic Preview

A. Proofreading Sentences for Subject-Verb and Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Each of the following sentences contains an error in agreement. Identify each incorrect verb or pronoun, and supply the correct form.

EXAMPLE 1. Rochelle Richardson, one of our city's former mayors, live next door to me.

1. *live—lives*

1. When the truck overturned, a herd of cattle were set free on the expressway.
2. The teacher reminded everyone to sharpen their pencil.
3. Not one of our tomato plants are producing any fruit, but the green beans seem to be thriving.
4. Has each of the girls memorized their part?
5. Everybody have been talking about the class picnic ever since you thought of the idea.
6. Both of the finalists played his or her best.
7. Many of their experiments have failed, but neither Dr. Jenkins nor his assistants ever gives up hope.
8. There is a brush, a comb, and a mirror on the dresser top.
9. Many a sailor have perished when his or her ship ran aground on that reef.
10. Read *Little Women* and write a plot summary about them.

B. Proofreading a Paragraph for Subject-Verb and Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Most of the following sentences contain at least one agreement error. For each error, identify the incorrect verb or pronoun and supply the correct form. If the sentence is already correct, write C.

- EXAMPLE** 1. Filming an animal in its natural surroundings present many problems.
1. *present—presents*
11. One problem is that the filmmaker, in most cases, have to get quite close to the animal.
 12. Ten yards often make the difference between a good scene and no scene at all.
 13. A zoom lens or a telephoto lens are generally used, but even then, getting good photographs can be very difficult.
 14. Before filming, the crew usually take turns watching the animal for weeks to learn its habits and find good vantage points for taking pictures.
 15. In addition, the filmmaker and the crew uses every trick of the trade in filming wild animals.
 16. For example, *Foxes at Night* were almost certainly not filmed at night!
 17. “Nighttime” films are generally made during daylight hours, when there is plenty of natural light.
 18. Later, all of the daytime footage are darkened through the use of filters.
 19. Also, many of the animals used in a nature film has been trained or partially tamed.
 20. For example, if a filmmaker or a member of the crew take care of a bird from the moment it hatches, it will instinctively follow them.
 21. The photographer can then easily take close-up pictures of the bird after it matures.
 22. In many films, scenes of animals giving birth and raising its young are filmed in a studio, not in the wild.
 23. Photographers get good footage by building a den where he or she can film the baby animals through a window beside the nest.
 24. This film, along with footage taken in the natural habitat, are then skillfully edited.
 25. As a result, few of the viewers ever suspect that the film shown to him or her has been shot indoors.