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Chapter Review

A. Identifying Verbs that Agree in Number with Their Subjects

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. (*Doesn't, Don't*) she know when she'll be back?
2. Most of my jewelry (*was, were*) lost in the fire.
3. For better or for worse, politics (*play, plays*) an important part in all our lives.
4. Many ideas in her book (*requires, require*) a great deal of thought.
5. (*Has, Have*) Lisa and Haruo been paid for their work?
6. (*Is, Are*) everybody finished with the project?
7. Neither the president nor the vice-president (*goes, go*) to every meeting.
8. There (*has, have*) been many accidents at that intersection.
9. Three fourths of the apartments (*was, were*) rented before the building was completed.
10. Our class president, with the help of several others, usually (*sets, set*) the agenda for the meeting.
11. Nobody here (*has, have*) the correct time.
12. A herd of cattle (*is, are*) by the river.
13. Some of Pat's nacho recipes (*contains, contain*) very hot spices.
14. One of the owners (*work, works*) at the store on weekends.
15. Physics (*is, are*) a challenging and fascinating subject.
16. Where (*do, does*) the scissors go?
17. The main attraction in the parade (*is, are*) the student floats.
18. Van Gogh's *The Potato Eaters* (*show, shows*) a Dutch farm family at dinner.
19. If two thirds of the people (*vote, votes*) for the measure, it will become law.
20. Here (*is, are*) a new football and a helmet for your birthday.

B. Proofreading Sentences for Subject-Verb Agreement

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

21. Every man and woman were questioned by the police.

22. The pile of papers were scattered by the wind.
23. Each of the girls brought their own tennis balls.
24. Some of the sheep from that flock is lost.
25. Your explanation don't really help that much.
26. Most of the poetry are in English.
27. Each of the students were happy the exam was over.
28. Many a student have been grateful for being in Ms. Makowski's history class.
29. Someone forgot their umbrella.
30. Either Bill or his uncles is waiting downstairs.

C. Identifying Antecedents and Writing Pronouns

Each of the following sentences contains a blank where a pronoun should be. Complete each sentence by writing a pronoun that agrees with its antecedent. Identify the antecedent.

31. Uncle Harry and Aunt Nell said that ____ would be happy to contribute to the silent auction.
32. Can I have Trevor's phone number, so that I can tell ____ about the ceremony?
33. Every horse in the stable had ____ own bucket of oats.
34. Louis Pasteur, the great French scientist, made ____ first scientific discovery at the age of 26.
35. Teresa or Sandra will go to the airport early so that ____ will be sure to meet Jorge's plane.
36. Patsy and Debbie will be late because ____ forgot the appointment.
37. Neither of the men changed ____ mind on the issue.
38. Because of the strike, several of the drivers had to change ____ own oil.
39. Both Henry James and his brother William became famous through ____ writings.
40. Neither the film crew nor the writers blamed ____ for the mistake.

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

For each error in the following paragraph, identify the incorrect verb or pronoun and supply the correct form.

[41] CDs of popular music is getting very expensive. [42] The economics of this situation have hit young people right in the wallet! [43] Few has enough money to buy all the best new songs. [44] A teenager will have to use their brains if they want to save money buying music. [45] Several of my friends buy a download instead of a CD if he or she want to save a little money. [46] Danny, one of my best friends, take another approach. [47] His favorite group are The Avengers, and he visits their Web site for free downloads. [48] He don't have to pay for anything but the blank disc. [49] Another way to save money on CDs are to check them out from a public library. [50] Kristi and Selena, two of my friends, save as much as four or five dollars by buying her CDs on sale.



Writing Application

Using Agreement in a Paragraph

Subject-Verb Agreement During Career Day, the school counselor asks you to write a paragraph beginning with this statement: “People I know work at a variety of jobs.” Using subjects and verbs that agree, describe the jobs of three people you know.

Prewriting Start by listing at least three people you know who have different kinds of jobs. Think of action verbs that describe what these people do. For example, instead of saying “Mrs. Ruíz is a chemistry teacher,” say “Mrs. Ruíz teaches chemistry.”

Writing As you write your first draft, be sure to include some details that clearly show how the jobs differ from one another.

Revising Check your rough draft to be sure that the examples you have chosen show a variety of jobs. If not, you may want to replace some examples or add new ones. Make sure each job is described vividly.

Publishing Identify the subjects and verbs in each sentence, and be sure that they agree. Read your paragraph aloud to help you recognize any errors in usage, spelling, and punctuation. Be sure that you have capitalized all proper names. Your class might photocopy and display their paragraphs during career day. With the permission of the people you wrote about, your class could also prepare a job information directory.

SKILLS FOCUS

Write narratives.
Demonstrate understanding of correct subject-verb agreement.