

Exercise on Subject-Verb Agreement

In the following pairs, one sentence is correct, and the other sentence has a subject-verb agreement error. Mark the CORRECT sentence.

1. A _____ A catalog of courses and requirements often confuses students.

B _____ A catalog of courses and requirements often confuse students.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The subject is *catalog*, which is a singular noun, so the verb must be singular. The correct verb is *confuses*. Remember, the object of the preposition (*courses and requirements*) is never the subject of the sentence.

2. A _____ Here is the book and the workbook that you will need for this course.

B _____ Here are the book and the workbook that you will need for this course.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *the book and the workbook*, which is plural, so the verb must be plural. The correct verb is *are*.

Answer B is correct.

3. A _____ Each of the students are studying for the test.

B _____ Each of the students is studying for the test.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *each*, which is always singular, so the verb must be singular. The correct verb is *is*.

Answer B is correct.

4. A _____ Not only the students but also the teacher is confused by the material.

B _____ Not only the students but also the teacher are confused by the material.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The subject is *students and teacher*. *Teacher*, which is closer to the verb, is singular, so the verb must be singular. The correct verb is *is*.

5. A _____ Some of the questions seem too hard.

B _____ Some of the questions seems too hard.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The subject is *some*. *Some* is an indefinite pronoun that can be singular or plural, depending on the noun to which it refers. *Questions* is plural, so the sentence requires a plural verb. The correct verb is *seem*.

6. A _____ Next to the cash register was jars for donations for the tsunami victims.

B _____ Next to the cash register were jars for donations for the tsunami victims.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *jars*, which is plural, so the verb must be plural. *Next to the cash register* is a prepositional phrase. The object of a preposition (cash register) can never be the subject of the sentence. The correct verb is *were*.

Answer B is correct.

7. A _____ Neither of my daughters look like me.

B _____ Neither of my daughters looks like me.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *neither*, which is an indefinite pronoun that is always singular, so the verb must be singular. The correct verb is *looks*.

Answer B is correct.

8. A _____ Many of the headlines in the newspaper seem hard to believe.

B _____ Many of the headlines in the newspaper seems hard to believe.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The subject is *many*, which is a plural pronoun, so the verb must be plural. The correct verb is *seem*.

9. A _____ One of my roommates are always leaving dirty dishes under the couch.

B _____ One of my roommates is always leaving dirty dishes under the couch.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *one*, which is always singular, so the verb must be singular. The correct verb is *is*.

Answer B is correct.

10. A _____ A duck, three goats, and a horse was among the entrants in the pet parade.

B _____ A duck, three goats, and a horse were among the entrants in the pet parade.

Answer A is incorrect. The subject is *a duck, three goats, and a horse* which is plural, so the verb must be plural. The correct verb is *were*.

Answer B is correct.