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.