

Subject and Verb Agreement

What is different about these sentences from *Seedfolks*?

It was like a baby always crying for its milk (43).

My plants were right there by the sidewalk (56).

- Every sentence must have a **subject** and a **predicate (verb)** .

Every sentence must have a **subject** – the noun or pronoun that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

Every sentence must have a **predicate** – all the verbs (verb phrase) that tell what the subject does or is doing (action) or what the condition of the subject is (linking).

- **Subjects** are either **singular** or **plural** in number. **Singular** subjects refer to **one** person, place, thing, or idea, and **plural** refers to **more than one**.

Singular nouns: cat table copy child woman mouse

Plural nouns: cats tables copies children women mice

- **Verbs**, too, are either **singular** or **plural**.

Singular verbs: looks runs studies is has

Plural verbs: look run study are have

- The subject and verb in a sentence must agree in **number**: singular or plural.

A singular subject must have a singular verb and a plural subject takes a plural verb.

Sing. Sub. and Sing. Verb

The cat runs.

The child plays. —

Plural Sub. and Plural Verb

The cats run.

The children play. —

- Subjects and verbs are NEVER in a prepositional phrase!!!

A flock (of birds) flies away.

Flocks (of birds) fly away.

Exercise A: Some of the following nouns and pronouns are singular, and some are plural. Identify each singular word by writing *S* and each plural word by writing *P* on the line provided.

EXAMPLES S 1. genius
 P 2. mice

_____ 1. animal	_____ 7. string
_____ 2. igloos	_____ 8. men
_____ 3. mineral	_____ 9. calves
_____ 4. blueberries	_____ 10. teeth
_____ 5. kitchen	_____ 11. bottle
_____ 6. she	_____ 12. they

Exercise B: On the line provided, write *S* if the subject and verb are singular. Write *P* if the subject and verb are plural.

EXAMPLES S 1. cloth tears
 P 2. boys swim

_____ 1. Felicia runs	_____ 6. girls sing
_____ 2. happiness is	_____ 7. fire burns
_____ 3. we listen	_____ 8. ambassadors meet
_____ 4. rain falls	_____ 9. water boils
_____ 5. puppies play	_____ 10. vines are

Exercise C: Directions:

- Enclose prepositional phrases with parentheses ()
- Underline the subject(s) of the sentence once. Above the subject write an **S** if the subject is singular and a **P** if the subject is plural.
- Choose the correct verb to agree with the subject and underline it twice.

Model: **S**
 Your dog _____ every night. [*bark*, *barks*]

P
 Our forests _____ a home (for many animals.) [*provide*, *provides*]

S
 That book (of poems) _____ on the top shelf. [*sit*, *sits*]

Let's do these together:

1. My grandmother _____ money on my birthday. [*send*, *sends*]
2. The women _____ cloth on a loom. [*weave*, *weaves*]
3. That group of boys _____ the museum every year. [*visit*, *visits*]

Now do these on your own. Please be very neat and careful.

1. Our neighbor often _____ tools from us. [*borrow, borrows*]
2. The children _____ around the campfire. [*huddle, huddles*]
3. The meal _____ soup and salad. [*include, includes*]
4. At the parade, a team of horses _____ by us. [*gallop, gallops*].
5. An artist _____ about the colors she will use. [*think, thinks*].
6. Often, the mice _____ the cheese in the traps. [*eat, eats*]
7. The weather in tropical regions _____ almost always predictable. [*are, is*]
8. That successful author _____ to write another novel. [*plan, plans*]
9. Some forest animals _____ through the trees from branch to branch. [*glide, glides*]
10. The restaurants at the beach _____ tables outside. [*has, have*]
11. That dog frequently _____ me home for some reason. [*follow, follows*]
12. The hamsters in that cage _____ very lively. [*seem, seems*]

Writing:

Write a sentence with a singular subject and singular verb. Underline the subject once and the verb twice

13. _____

Write a sentence with a plural subject and a plural verb. Underline the subject once and the verb twice.

14. _____

