

**Lesson
3**

Phrases Between Subject and Verbs

Teaching

Many errors in subject-verb agreement occur when a prepositional phrase falls between the subject and verb.

The subject of a verb is never part of a prepositional phrase. Mentally block out any words between the subject and verb. Make the verb agree with the subject.

This **photo** of trees and flowers **wins** first prize. (singular subject and verb)

The **trees** in the photo **are** stately. (plural subject and verb)

A. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Underline the subject of each sentence. Draw a line through any phrase that separates the subject from the verb. Finally, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

1. The view of the lawns and gardens (was, were) breathtaking.
2. One huge tree with the red and yellow leaves (is, are) in the background.
3. The trees in the orchard (provide, provides) apples for pies and cobblers.
4. A house with the white-trimmed windows (is, are) at the top of the hill.
5. The days of autumn (thrills, thrill) me every year.
6. Hours of raking and other cleanup work (pays, pay) off in the spring.
7. A lawn under a carpet of red and golden leaves (reminds, remind) me of my bed covered with a warm blanket.
8. The city park, in the opinion of many residents, (is, are) at its best in fall

B. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Underline the subject of each sentence. Draw a line through any phrase that separates the subject from the verb. Then write the form of the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

1. Marie, in a heavy parka and waterproof hiking boots, (love) walking in the woods in winter. _____
2. Books with the author's signature (be) worth more. _____
3. A clown with three dogs in a wagon (be) leading the parade. _____
4. Tall frameworks of iron (support) skyscrapers. _____
5. Artists of that group (lead) the way toward a new style. _____
6. Slippers of glass, in reality, (be) not very useful. _____
7. A paper with more than six erasures (receive) a lower grade. _____
8. The fourth book in that series (have) the strongest plot of all. _____

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More Practice

A. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Underline the subject. Then underline the verb that agrees with the subject.

1. The thought of so many cars on the roads (scare, scares) me.
2. The bridges across the winding river (connects, connect) different sections of the city.
3. The woman with the three children (need, needs) a babysitter tonight.
4. The strawflowers for sale at the market (make, makes) a pretty wreath.
5. Dinners at this time of year (seems, seem) incomplete without pumpkin pie.
6. A hayride under the stars (provides, provide) an evening of fun.
7. Legends of a monster in the swamp (has, have) frightened children in this region for generations.
8. Ann and Isaiah, with all their relatives at the seashore, (plays, play) a wild game of volleyball.
9. The parade of ghosts and goblins (comes, come) down our street.
10. One package of candies (isn't, aren't) enough.
11. Those dishes of fine china (makes, make) me nervous.
12. Only one of these problems (has, have) to be solved right now.

B. Correcting Agreement in Number

In each of these sentences, decide whether the verb agrees with the subject. If it does, write **Correct** on the line. If it does not, write the correct form of the verb on the line.

1. Two nests on the windowsills of the office building holds eggs. _____
2. The painting full of wild animals appeals to him. _____
3. The clown with the orange hair and big shoes make me laugh. _____
4. The men in the dragon float is in the parade every year. _____
5. The enormous string of beads were my idea. _____
6. A bouquet of flowers go to the winner. _____
7. In the fall, a pile of leaves is fun to jump into. _____
8. The cage with the monkeys always attract a crowd. _____
9. The people in the house on the corner is giving out candy bars. _____
10. A traveling carnival with all sorts of rides pass inspection every year. _____

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Application

A. Correcting Agreement in Number

Underline the subject and verb of each numbered sentence. If there is an agreement error, write the subject and the correct form of the verb on the lines below. If the subject and verb agree, write **Correct**.

- (1) One of my favorite fall activities are hiking in the woods.
- (2) The fallen leaves, like a warm blanket over the cold earth, rustle softly under my feet.
- (3) The path through the woods follow the course of a small stream.
- (4) The murmurs of the stream creates nature's sound effects especially for me.
- (5) A friend along with you make the experience even better.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

In each sentence beginning below, underline the word that should be used as the simple subject in a sentence. Then supply a complete predicate, including a verb of your choice, to complete the sentence. Make sure your verb agrees with the underlined subject.

EXAMPLE The girls on the swimming team *eat lunch together*.

1. The cost of stamps

2. The cooks in the restaurant

3. The cage with the hamsters

4. The slices of pizza

5. The pages of the book
