

# Agreement of Subject and Verb (1)

A verb should agree in number with its subject.

(1) Singular subjects take singular verbs.

(2) Plural subjects take plural verbs.

<b>SINGULAR</b>	<b>He takes</b> music lessons.	<b>She has been sleeping.</b>
<b>PLURAL</b>	<b>They take</b> music lessons.	<b>They have been sleeping.</b>

The number of the subject usually is not determined by a word in a phrase or clause following the subject.

<b>EXAMPLES</b>	That <b>dog</b> with big teeth <b>scares</b> me
	<b>Earl</b> , as well as his older sister, <b>is</b> a fantastic athlete.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, two verbs appear in parentheses. Underline the verb that agrees with its subject.

<b>Example</b>	1. Some members of the Spanish club ( <i>has, <u>have</u></i> ) been studying Mexico.
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1. The capital of Mexico (*is, are*) Mexico City.
2. The plaza at the center of the city (*covers, cover*) the site of an ancient Aztec temple.
3. Today, people (*calls, call*) the plaza the Zócalo.
4. Many buildings of historical and architectural interest (*surrounds, surround*) the Zócalo.
5. The City Hall, as well as the National Palace, (*is, are*) on the Zócalo.
6. The offices of the government (*is, are*) in the National Palace.
7. The National Palace (*was, were*) built over three hundred years ago.
8. Inside the Palace (*is, are*) several murals by Diego Rivera.
9. One of them, titled *El Mundo Azteca*, (*depicts, depict*) people from the ancient culture.
10. The citizens, together with tourists, (*enjoy, enjoys*) visiting the National Palace.

**EXERCISE B** Each of the sentences in the following paragraph contains an error in subject-verb agreement. Cross out each incorrect verb and write the correct verb above it.

<b>Example</b>	The arts of illusion <del>is</del> <sup>are</sup> essential in the world of moviemaking.
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[11] Few viewers of the film *Superman: The Movie* knows how Christopher Reeve soars through the air. [12] Credit for the flying scenes go to special-effects crews. [13] These masters of illusion creates the tricks to make the impossible appear to happen. [14] Superman, together with Lois Lane, were suspended on wires from huge cranes. [15] The actors in the scene were moving only their heads and arms while films of rushing scenery was projected onto large screens behind them.

## Answer Keys:

### EXERCISE A

1. is
2. covers
3. call
4. surround
5. is
6. are
7. was
8. are
9. depicts
10. enjoy

### EXERCISE B

[11] Few viewers of the film *Superman: The Movie* ~~knows~~ <sup>know</sup> how Christopher Reeve soars through the air. [12] Credit for the flying scenes ~~go~~ <sup>goes</sup> to special-effects crews. [13] These masters of illusion ~~creates~~ <sup>create</sup> the tricks to make the impossible appear to happen. [14] Superman, together with Lois Lane, ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> suspended on wires from huge cranes. [15] The actors in the scene were moving only their heads and arms while films of rushing scenery ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> projected onto large screens behind them.