

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.

SINGULAR	He takes music lessons.	She has been sleeping.
PLURAL	They take music lessons.	They have been sleeping.

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

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

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

EXAMPLES	1. Some members of the Spanish club (has, <u>have</u>) been studying Mexico.
-----------------	---

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.

EXAMPLES	<p style="text-align: center;">are</p> <p>The arts of illusion is essential in the world of moviemaking.</p>
-----------------	--

[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.

Agreement of Subject and Verb (1)

Answer Key

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

know

know [11] Few viewers of the film Superman: The Movie ~~knows~~ how Christopher goes Reeve soars

goes

through the air. [12] Credit for the flying scenes ~~go~~ to create special-effects crews. [13] These

create

masters of illusion ~~creates~~ the tricks to make the impossible appear to happen. [14] Superman,

was

together with ~~was~~ Lois Lane, were suspended on wires from huge cranes. [15] The actors in the

ware

scene were moving only their heads and arms while films of rushing ~~were~~ scenery was projected

onto large screens behind them.