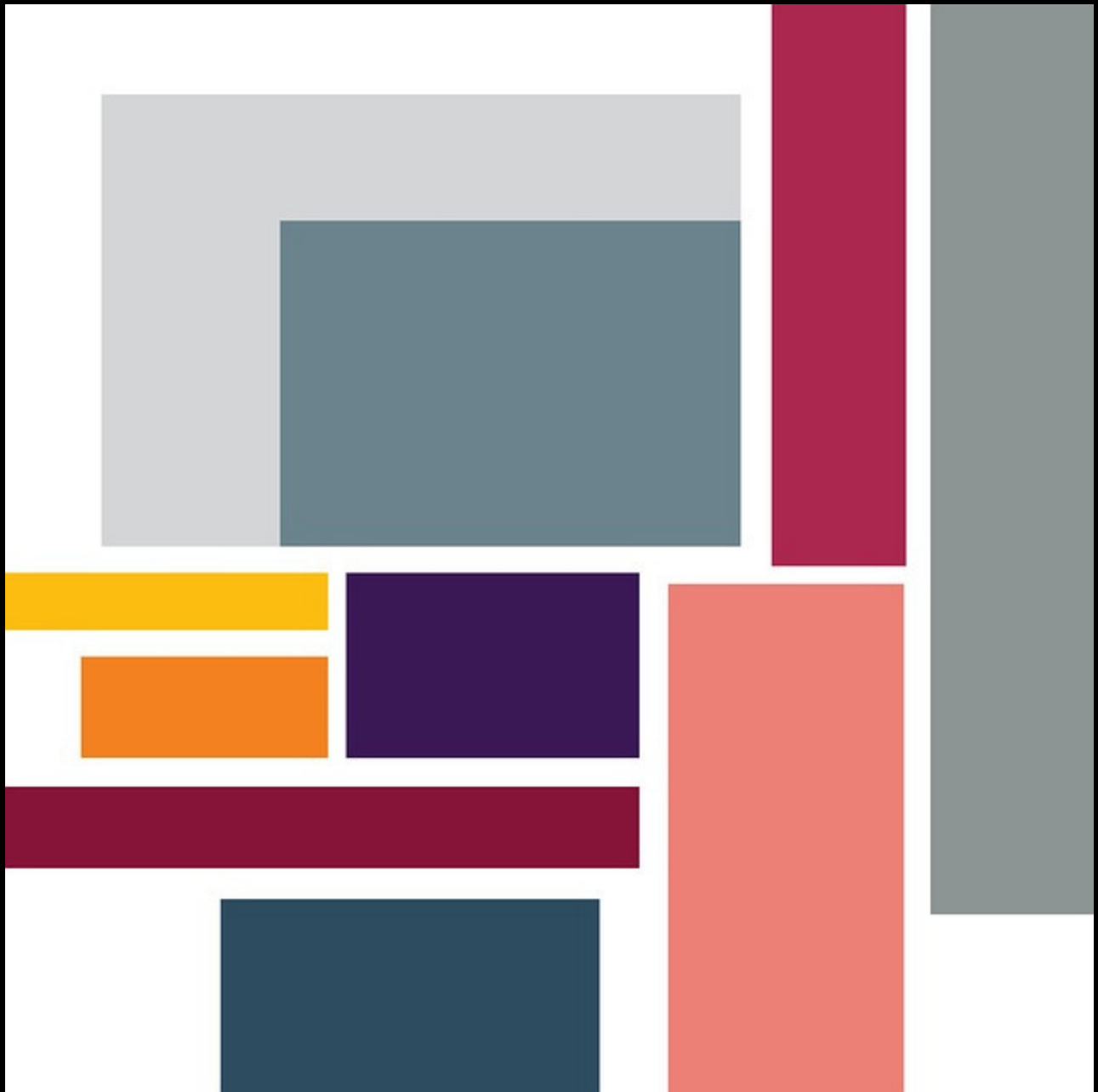


Subject-Verb Agreement



Subject-Verb Agreement

Lesson & Exercises

Number answers the question “how many”? It indicates whether a verb is **singular** or **plural**.

All verbs must agree with their subject in number:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.

In English, the endings of most singular and plural verb forms are identical, e.g., *I go, we go*; the only variation occurs in the third-person **singular** form (*s/he, it, one*), which always ends in *-s*. (When a verb ends in *-sh* or *-ch*, the third-person singular form ends in *-es*, e.g., *she wishes, he watches*).

Note that this is the **opposite of nouns**, which take an *-s* in the plural.

To reiterate: third-person singular verbs end in *-s*; third-person plural verbs do not.

Subject Number	Correct	Incorrect
Singular	The student speaks.	The student speak.
Plural, Simple	The students speak.	The students speaks.
Plural, Compound	The student and the teacher speak.	The student and the teacher speaks.

The verb *to be*, the most common English verb, is unique in that it has different third-person singular and plural conjugations in both the present and the past.

	Present	Past
Singular	is	was
Plural	are	were

In addition, the common verbs *to have*, *to do*, and *to go* also have slightly irregular third-person singular forms.

	3 rd Person Singular	3 rd Person Plural
To have	S/he, it has	They have
To do	S/he, it does	They do
To go	S/he, it goes	They go

What Can Be a Subject?

I. Noun

Correct: **Bats** are able to hang upside down without discomfort because they possess specialized tendons in their feet.

II. Pronoun

Pronouns are words that replace nouns, e.g., *she, he, it, one, you, this, that, there, each, some, and many*.

Correct: **They** are able to hang upside down without discomfort because they possess specialized tendons in their feet.

Correct: **Some (of them)** are able to hang upside down without discomfort because they possess specialized tendons in their feet.

Less commonly, the pronouns *how, that, what, and whether* can also be used as subjects, sometimes as part of a much longer complete subject (underlined). While the constructions below may sound odd to you, they are acceptable.

Correct: **That (= The fact that)** Aldous Huxley exhibited many shortcomings in his ability to develop believable characters and create compelling storylines was overshadowed by his capacity to navigate a staggering panorama of ideas in his fiction.

Correct: **Whether (= The question whether)** markets will continue to rise or will begin to demonstrate signs of sluggishness over the next several months remains to be seen.

Correct: **How** bats hang upside down was a mystery until it was discovered that they possess specialized tendons in their feet.

Correct: Although the technologies necessary for space travel were developed only recently, what drives humans' fascination with exploring the stars has remained unchanged for hundreds of years

III. Gerund

Gerund = *Verb + -ING*

Correct: **Hanging** upside down for long periods is a skill that both bats and sloths possess, but bats race quickly away when startled whereas sloths make no attempt to move.

IV. Infinitive

Infinitive = *To + Verb*

Infinitives are most commonly used to create the parallel construction *to do x is to do y*.

Correct: **To hang** upside down from a branch for a long period of time is to experience the world much as a bat or sloth does.

When simple subjects are placed next to their verbs, disagreements are typically easy to identify. When sentences become longer and more complex, however, verbs can be separated from their subjects in a variety of ways. In some instances, a very significant amount of information may be placed between the subject and the verb, making it easy to lose track of the subject and create or overlook a disagreement.

A. Compound Subject

On their face, compound subjects are very straightforward: they simply consist of two nouns, singular or plural, joined by the word *and*. These subjects are **always plural** and thus take plural verbs.

When sentences are short and simple, as in the examples on the previous page, disagreements involving compound subjects are usually fairly obvious. When they appear in the context of long sentences, however, disagreements can be quite subtle and are remarkably easy to overlook. (In fact, this error is so easy to miss, regardless of how well someone knows the rules, that it is not uncommon to find it in the pages of major newspapers!)

Incorrect: Louise Glück's straightforward language **and** unadorned style **gives** her poems an air of accessibility that masks the intensity of their content.

Correct: Louise Glück's straightforward language **and** unadorned style **give** her poems an air of accessibility that masks the intensity of their content.

Notice that in the above set of sentences, the disagreement error is very difficult to hear. In addition, people naturally tend to focus on the part of the subject that appears right before the verb (*unadorned style*) and not notice the first half (*straightforward language*).

B. Non-Essential Clauses

A **non-essential clause** describes a noun, often the subject of a sentence. It is known as a non-essential clause because the information it provides is not crucial to the meaning of the sentence – it's more like an interruption. Consequently, it can be removed without causing any major grammatical problem or change in meaning.

Non-essential clauses have two main identifying features:

- 1) They are typically surrounded by commas (although they can also be surrounded by dashes or parentheses).
- 2) If they are removed from a sentence, the sentence will still make perfect grammatical sense.

In addition:

- They often begin with a "w-word" (or **relative pronoun**), such as *which*, *who*, *whose*, that refers to the noun immediately before the clause.
- They are usually followed by verbs.

Consider the following sentence:

Correct: Moroccan green tea, **which is prepared with a healthy dose of sugar and mint leaves**, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

When we examine the sentence's structure, we see it contains a **relative clause** that begins with *which* and that is surrounded by commas. If we remove that clause, we are left with:

Correct: Moroccan green tea [...] is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

The sentence that remains makes complete sense on its own.

Appositives and Other Types of Non-Essential Clauses

Non-essential clauses can also begin with nouns, in which case they are known as **appositives**.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, **a drink prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves**, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

In addition, they can begin with present participles (*-ing*) or past participles (*-ed, -ung, -ung, -own*).

Correct: Green tea, **having originated in China**, is today drunk across North Africa, where it is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, **prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves**, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Even when a subject and a verb are separated by a non-essential clause, they must still agree. Don't get distracted by a noun at the end of a non-essential clause! In the example below, for instance, *leaves* (plural) appears before the verb; however, that noun is part of the non-essential clause. The verb must agree with *Moroccan green tea* (singular).

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, are one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Also watch out for constructions like the following:

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, along with spiced ginger coffee, **are** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, along with spiced ginger coffee, **is** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

While the subject appears plural (compound), the commas indicate a non-essential clause. The subject is singular.

You must also make sure that the verb(s) within a non-essential clause agree with the subject.

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which **are** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which **is** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Essential Clauses with "That"

Essential clauses begin with *that* rather than *which* and are not set off by commas. Grammatically, however, they function exactly like non-essential clauses in that they can be placed between a subject and a verb. Again, you must make sure that the verb agrees with its subject rather than with a noun that comes immediately before it.

Incorrect: A beverage *that has long been used as a form of medicine in many countries* **are** green tea.

Correct: A beverage *that has long been used as a form of medicine in many countries* **is** green tea.

Although the verb comes after *countries* (plural), that noun is part of the essential clause *that has long been used as a form of medicine* and does not affect the number of the verb. The verb must agree with the singular subject, *beverage*.

C. Subject – Prepositional Phrase – Verb

A prepositional phrase is simply a phrase that begins with a preposition (e.g., *in the box*, *under the table*, *over the hill*). Prepositional phrases are commonly inserted between subjects and verbs. Even if you haven't studied this structure formally, you most likely use it in your own writing already.

In the sentences below, the subject is underlined, the prepositional phrase is italicized, and the verb is in bold. **Note that the last word of a prepositional phrase is always the last word right before the verb.** If you ever need to cross out prepositional phrases in order to simplify a sentence, make sure you do not cross out verbs!

Incorrect: Changes *in the balance of trade* **seems** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect how we spend our money.

Correct: Changes *in the balance of trade* **seem** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect how we spend our money.

In the above sentences, the subject (*changes*) is plural and thus requires a plural verb (*seem*).

However, the prepositional phrase inserted between the subject and the verb has as its last word a singular noun (*trade*), which, if you are not paying close attention, can easily appear to be the subject of the verb that follows.

Some sentences may also separate subjects and verbs through a combination of prepositional phrases and non-essential clauses, or include a compound subject followed by a prepositional phrase. In such cases, you must keep very careful track of which noun(s) a particular verb must agree with.

Incorrect: The buildings of Frank Gehry, including Gehry's private residence, **attracts** thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.

This is a more complicated sentence than the ones we've looked at so far in this chapter, so we're going to deconstruct it one piece at a time.

The commas around *including Gehry's private residence* signal a non-essential clause, so we're going to start by crossing it out.

Incorrect: The buildings of Frank Gehry, ~~including Gehry's private residence,~~ **attracts** thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.

Next, we can notice that the beginning of the sentence contains the word *of*, which signals a prepositional phrase. We're going to cross that out as well.

Incorrect: The buildings ~~of Frank Gehry, including Gehry's private residence,~~ **attracts** thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.

Now the error is clear. The subject, *the buildings*, is plural, whereas the verb *attracts* is singular. (Remember: -s at the end of a verb = singular!) A plural verb must be provided.

Correct: The buildings of Frank Gehry, including Gehry's private residence, **attract** thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.

C. Prepositional Phrase – Verb – Subject

In this structure, which is typically used only in very formal writing, the normal word order (or **syntax**) of a sentence is reversed so that the prepositional phrase appears at the beginning of a sentence, followed by the verb and then subject, always in that order.

In the sentences below, the subject is underlined, the prepositional phrase is italicized, and the verb is in bold.

Incorrect: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extends** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district.

Correct: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extend** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district.

When this structure is used, the preposition is usually the first word of the sentence, but occasionally it may appear slightly later. In such cases, it will typically be preceded by a participle (*-ing* or *-ed*).

Incorrect: *Running along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **is** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district.

Correct: *Running along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **are** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district.

Although the reversed syntax may make the sentence sound odd to you, it is important to understand that the syntax itself is not what makes the sentence incorrect. Rather, the problem is that the subject and the verb disagree.

Usual: A park and a lake **runs** *along the Loup Canal*, a hydroelectric and irrigation canal located in eastern Nebraska.

Unusual: *Along the Loup Canal* **runs** a park and a lake, both of which are owned and operated by the Loup Power District.

Note that in the second version, the error is much more difficult to hear.

Occasionally, a verb may come before a subject without being preceded by a prepositional phrase.

Incorrect: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **is** its long-term effects.

Correct: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **are** its long-term effects.

Again, this type of phrasing is only used in very formal writing, and it is unlikely to be a major concern for you in your own papers.

Subject-Verb Agreement Exercise 1

Directions: In the following sentences, underline the subject, and conjugate the verb in parentheses so that it agrees in number. Remember that singular verbs end in *-s*, and plural verbs do not end in *-s*. Some of the sentences may not contain an error.

1. The process of living vicariously through a fictional character in order to purge one's emotions _____ (*to be*) known as catharsis.
2. Near the border between China and Tibet _____ (*to lie*) the Himalaya Mountains, which include some of the highest peaks in the world.
3. Although drivers throughout the United States are required to purchase automobile insurance, levels of coverage often _____ (*to vary*) depending on the driver's age and state of residence.
4. In the eighteenth century, the first public library in the United States and the first fire department in the state of Pennsylvania _____ (*to be*) founded by Benjamin Franklin.
5. Tropical waves in the Atlantic basin frequently _____ (*to develop*) from disturbances that begin in east Africa and drift over the continent into the Atlantic Ocean.
6. Playboating, a discipline of whitewater rafting or canoeing in which players stay in one spot while performing certain maneuvers, _____ (*to involve*) specialized canoes designed for the sport.
7. Opposition to rodeos from animal-rights workers _____ (*to focus*) primarily on the poor treatment and living conditions of the horses used in competitions.
8. A natural thief and spy, the jay, along with the crow and the raven, _____ (*to belong*) to a highly intelligent group of birds called the corvids.
9. Among the finds from a recent archaeological dig in London _____ (*to be*) earthenware knobs originally used for "pay walls": boxes into which Elizabethan theater-goers deposited their admission fees.
10. The wings of a butterfly are sophisticated collectors of solar energy because their elongated rectangular scales overlap to create a structure that _____ (*to resemble*) shingles on a roof.

11. Researchers have hypothesized that whales sing by pumping air into pouches, which then _____
(*to release*) vibrations into the surrounding water.
12. The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree _____
(*to distinguish*) it from the equally common English Elm tree.
13. Possible explanations for the suspicion surrounding Shakespeare's Macbeth _____ (*to include*)
the superstition that the witches' song is an actual incantation and the belief that theaters only mount the play
when they are in need of money.
14. According to the law of diminution, the pitches of notes sounded by an orchestra _____ (*to remain*)
the same even as the amount of sound diminishes.
15. Along the deepest part of the ocean floor _____ (*to sit*) the Mariana Trench and the HMRG Deep,
the two lowest spots that researchers have ever identified on earth.

In addition:

There is/There are, etc.

There is
There was
There has been

} go with **singular** nouns

There are
There were
There have been

} go with **plural** nouns

Incorrect: In recent months, there **has been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances.

Correct: In recent months, there **have been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances.

(N)either...(N)or

When (n)either...(n)or is followed by a verb, the verb must take the number of the noun that follows *nor*.

Incorrect: Neither the senator nor her aide **are** expected to appear at the press conference.

Correct: Neither the senator nor her aide **is** expected to appear at the press conference.

BUT:

Incorrect: Neither the senator nor her aides **is** expected to appear at the press conference.

Correct: Neither the senator nor her aides **are** expected to appear at the press conference.

When (n)either appears without (n)or and is used with two singular nouns, a singular verb should also be used. *Neither* is short for *neither one*, and so this word is singular by definition.

Incorrect: Both the senator and her aide appeared at the press conference, but neither **were** willing to speak to reporters.

Correct: Both the senator and her aide appeared at the press conference, but neither **was** willing to speak to reporters.

Collective Nouns = Singular

Collective nouns refer to groups of people, e.g., *family, agency, institution, school, committee, council, jury, city, country, company, university, and team*. In American English (unlike British English), they are considered singular.

Incorrect: After many days of deliberation, the jury **have** finally returned with a verdict.

Correct: After many days of deliberation, the jury **has** finally returned with a verdict.

A number of = Plural

The number = Singular

Correct: A number of workers **are** beginning to protest the economic policies instituted by the new administration.

Correct: The number of workers beginning to protest the new administration's economic policies **is** unexpectedly high.

One of the = Singular

One of the Xs who/that = Plural

When the phrase *one of the...* is used as a subject, the prepositional phrase begun by *of* often contains a plural noun, as in the example below (*mysteries*). Don't be fooled – the subject is *one*, and a singular verb is required.

Incorrect: One of the biggest mysteries surrounding ancient Peru **involve** khipus, the knotted strings used to keep records.

Correct: One of the biggest mysteries surrounding ancient Peru **involves** khipus, the knotted strings used to keep records.

When the phrase *one of those Xs who/that...* is used, however, a plural verb is technically necessary. *Who* and *that* are used to refer to the noun that immediately precedes them. In this construction, the noun is always plural, so a plural verb should be used.

Incorrect: He is one of those students *who* always **waits** until the last minute to turn in assignments but still manage to receive excellent grades.

Correct: He is one of those students *who* always **wait** until the last minute to turn in assignments but still manage to receive excellent grades.

Gerunds when used as subjects = Singular

Incorrect: Playing parlor games such as charades **were** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

Correct: Playing parlor games such as charades **was** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

That, Whether, and Which = Singular

Correct: That (= The fact that) Mark Twain made substantial contributions to nineteenth century literary theory should come as no surprise given his importance in the world of letters.

Correct: What has been criticized **is** the author's refusal to discuss her work publicly, not the content of her novels.

Correct: Whether (= The question whether) The Tale of Genji was actually written entirely by Murasaki Shikibu **is** unlikely to ever be determined unless a major archival discovery is made.

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are used to refer to unspecified quantities. Some of the pronouns are singular, some are plural, and some can be either depending on the context.

Singular*	Plural	Singular or Plural
(N)either No one Anybody Anyone One Each Every Everybody Everyone	Few Both Several Many Others	Any None Some More Majority Most All

If the pronouns in the right-hand column are followed by singular nouns, they are singular.

Incorrect: **Most** of the Colorado River's water **come** from rainfall and melting snow.

Correct: **Most** of the Colorado River's water **comes** from rainfall and melting snow.

If they are followed by plural nouns, they are plural.

Incorrect: **Most** of the manufacturer's new safety regulations **has** now been put into effect.

Correct: **Most** of the manufacturer's new safety regulations **have** now been put into effect.

This rule holds true even when the noun is only implied.

Correct: **All** pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals are required to disclose results of clinical trials on ClinicalTrials.gov.

Correct: Clinical trials may be run by pharmaceutical companies, universities, or hospitals; **all** are required to disclose their results on ClinicalTrials.gov.

Note, however, that sometimes an additional (prepositional) phrase may be placed between the noun and the verb.

Incorrect: **Most** of the new safety regulations *adopted by the manufacturer* **has** now been put into effect.

Correct: **Most** of the new safety regulations *adopted by the manufacturer* **have** now been put into effect.

Subject-Verb Agreement Exercise 2

Directions: In the following sentences, underline the subject, and conjugate the verb in parentheses so that it agrees in number. Remember that singular verbs end in *-s*, and plural verbs do not end in *-s*. Some of the sentences may not contain an error.

1. The number of natural materials being replaced by synthetics _____ (*to appear*) to be growing because unlike wood, leather, and ceramics, plastic is enormously versatile and inexpensive to produce.
2. According to researchers, knowing two or more languages _____ (*to improve*) one's ability to focus in the face of distraction and ignore irrelevant information.
3. Each of the Taino's five chiefdoms, which inhabited the Bahamas before the arrival of Europeans, _____ (*to be*) ruled by a leader known as a cacique.
4. For the past several years, the theater company _____ (*to have*) traveled to various schools throughout the city in order to expose students to classic works.
5. Whether the first birds evolved from arboreal or terrestrial ancestors _____ (*to remain*) a source of lively debate among paleontologists.
6. *The Catcher in the Rye* is one of those books that _____ (*to tend*) to polarize readers, who typically find the protagonist, Holden Caulfield, either refreshingly honest or unbearably whiny and self-involved.
7. Having an excessive amount of confidence in one's personal beliefs frequently _____ (*to lead*) to poor decision-making, especially in organizational or political contexts.
8. Since the mid-1990s, an increasing number of American students _____ (*to have*) chosen to study abroad in countries in which English is not the primary language.
9. That Jane Goodall became the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees _____ (*to be*) hardly a surprise to those who observed her childhood fascination with animals.
10. One of *The Tale of Genji's* most extraordinary features _____ (*to be*) its ability to maintain coherency while describing the actions of more than 400 characters.

11. Delphi, home of the Delphic Oracle, contains a wide range of artifacts as well as many prestigious dedications, but neither _____ (*to prove*) that Delphi was a focus of attention for the general population in ancient Greece.
12. Every one of the illuminated manuscripts in the library's collection _____ (*to be*) unique, although most _____ (*to contain*) similar groups of texts accompanied by vividly colored decorations.
13. There _____ (*to be*) many prominent economists in the United States who consider changes in the demand for goods to be one of the fundamental causes of inflation.
14. Some of the passages in the book _____ (*to describe*) the physical realities of the Middle Ages in great detail, while others reflect the dazzling debates that would later lead to the Renaissance.
15. While reactions to the exhibition were mixed, neither the artist's exceptional showmanship nor his innovative techniques _____ (*to be*) questioned by the spectators.

Answers: Subject-Verb Agreement Exercise 1

1. The process of living vicariously through a fictional character in order to purge one's emotions **is** known as catharsis.
2. Near the border between China and Tibet **lie** the Himalaya Mountains, which include some of the highest peaks in the world.
3. Although drivers throughout the United States are required to purchase automobile insurance, levels of coverage often **vary** depending on the driver's age and state of residence.
4. In the eighteenth century, the first public library in the United States and the first fire department in the state of Pennsylvania **were** founded by Benjamin Franklin.
5. Tropical waves in the Atlantic basin frequently **develop** from disturbances that begin in east Africa and drift over the continent into the Atlantic Ocean.
6. Playboating, a discipline of whitewater rafting or canoeing in which players stay in one spot while performing certain maneuvers, **involves** specialized canoes designed for the sport.
7. Opposition to rodeos from animal-rights workers **focuses** primarily on the poor treatment and living conditions of the horses used in competitions.
8. A natural thief and spy, the jay, along with the crow and the raven, **belongs** to a highly intelligent group of birds called the corvids.
9. Among the finds from a recent archaeological dig in London **were** earthenware knobs originally used for "pay walls": boxes into which Elizabethan theater-goers deposited their admission fees.
10. The wings of a butterfly are sophisticated collectors of solar energy because their elongated rectangular scales overlap to create a structure that **resembles** shingles on a roof.
11. Researchers have hypothesized that whales sing by pumping air into pouches, which then **release** vibrations into the surrounding water.

12. The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree **distinguish** it from the equally common English Elm tree.
13. Possible explanations for the suspicion surrounding Shakespeare's Macbeth **include** the superstition that the witches' song is an actual incantation and the belief that theaters only mount the play when they are in need of money.
14. According to the law of diminution, the pitches of notes sounded by an orchestra **remain** the same even as the amount of sound diminishes.
15. Along the deepest part of the ocean floor **sit** the Mariana Trench and the HMRG Deep, the two lowest spots that researchers have ever identified on earth.

Answers: Subject-Verb Agreement Exercise 2

1. The number of natural materials being replaced by synthetics **appears** to be growing because unlike wood, leather, and ceramics, plastic is enormously versatile and inexpensive to produce.
2. According to researchers, knowing two or more languages **improves** one's ability to focus in the face of distraction and ignore irrelevant information.
3. Each of the Taino's five chiefdoms, which inhabited the Bahamas before the arrival of Europeans, **is** ruled by a leader known as a cacique.
4. For the past several years, the theater company **has** traveled to various schools throughout the city in order to expose students to classic works.
5. Whether the first birds evolved from arboreal or terrestrial ancestors **remains** a source of lively debate among paleontologists.
6. *The Catcher in the Rye* is one of those books that **tend** to polarize readers, who typically find the protagonist, Holden Caulfield, either refreshingly honest or unbearably whiny and self-involved.
7. Having an excessive amount of confidence in one's personal beliefs frequently **leads** to poor decision-making, especially in organizational or political contexts.
8. Since the mid-1990s, an increasing number of American students **have** chosen to study abroad in countries in which English is not the primary language.
9. That Jane Goodall became the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees **was** hardly a surprise to those who observed her childhood fascination with animals.
10. One of *The Tale of Genji's* most extraordinary features **is** its ability to maintain coherency while describing the actions of more than 400 characters.
11. Delphi, home of the Delphic Oracle, contains a wide range of artifacts as well as many prestigious dedications, but neither **proves** that Delphi was a focus of attention for the general population in ancient Greece.

12. Every one of the illuminated manuscripts in the library's collection **is** unique, although most **contain** similar groups of texts accompanied by vividly colored decorations.
13. There **are** many prominent economists in the United States who consider changes in the demand for goods to be one of the fundamental causes of inflation.
14. Some of the passages in the book **describe** the physical realities of the Middle Ages in great detail, while others reflect the dazzling debates that would later lead to the Renaissance.
15. While reactions to the exhibition were mixed, neither the artist's exceptional showmanship nor his innovative techniques **were** questioned by the spectators.