Study Guide

Subject Verb agreement
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**Subject-Verb Agreement - E**Subject-verb agreement is formed when a subject and verb of a sentence both take the same singular or plural form.

Example of a subject-verb agreement: Kimora surfs on Saturday mornings.

In this sentence, the subject *Kimora* is singular; therefore, the verb *surfs* is also in singular form. In the following example, the subject *Kimora and Selma* is plural; therefore, the verb *surf* is also in plural form.

Example: Kimora and Selma surf on Saturday mornings.

The subject of a sentence tells who or what the sentence is about. The action performed by the subject is the verb. These two sentence components must agree in number with each other. If the subject is singular, the verb must also be singular. If there is a plural subject, the verb must also be plural.

Every sentence must contain a *subject* and a *predicate*. The subject of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea being discussed. The predicate of a sentence is what is being said about that person, place, thing, or idea.

In sentences containing intervening elements or phrases, the student should pay special attention to the sentence's subject. For example:

 -One of my sisters, definitely the brightest out of all my mother's children, is practicing for the annual Spelling Bee.

Sentences containing relative pronouns can also be tricky. Relative pronouns include: *who*/*whose*/*whom*, *which*, and *that*. It is important for the student to memorize the instances in which each of the relative pronouns are used.

 -The woman *with whom I argued* was very rude to my sister.
 -The boy *who cried wolf* is now considered a liar.
 -The rain *that* comes in April helps the flowers grow for the month of May.
 -The pamphlet to *which* you are referring is very poorly written.

It may be helpful for the student to memorize which verbs are used when the subject is a relative pronoun. For example:

 -The woman whom you attacked is very angry.
 -The woman who attacked my sister is very angry.
 (The word "whose" is the possessive form of the word "who.")
 -The woman whose coat I borrowed expects me to return it tomorrow.
 -The dogs that I rescued are obedient.

**Practice:**

To help the student understand subject-verb agreement he or she should select the best answer from the given choices to make the sentence agree in number.

Example:
The audience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the play. (watch, watches) -> The audience watches the play.

1. I always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the front row. (sit, sits)
2. The boys \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the next performance. (purchases, purchase)
3. The actress \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ signing autographs after the show. (is, are)
4. Some plays \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ performed all over the world. (are, is)
5. The cast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a standing ovation. (receive, receives)
6. The bell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chimes for the town lets us know that it's time for dinner. (that, who)
7. My uncle, who is my mother's oldest sibling, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us with respect. (treat, treats)
8. My cousin, Isabella June, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to play with her tea set. (likes, like)
9. The police officer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am speaking is quite helpful. (to whom, who)
10. My brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pulled my hair cannot watch television for two weeks. (which, who)