

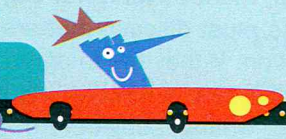


Avoiding Clause Confusion

Dependent Clause	Function	Example
Adjective clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• modifies noun or pronoun• tells what kind, which one, how many, or how much	The students who participated enjoyed the race.
Adverb clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• modifies verb, adjective, or adverb• tells where, when, how, why, to what extent, or under what conditions	They felt proud because they had done something worthwhile.
Noun clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• acts as subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition, or predicate noun	What helps others can be rewarding for volunteers too.

SENTENCES

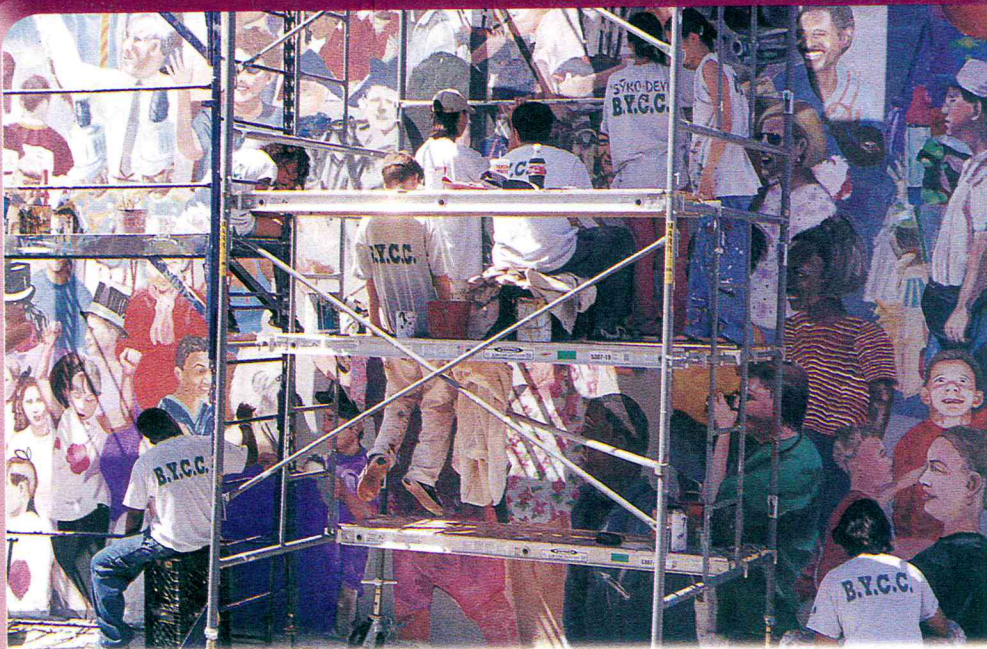
The Bottom Line



Checklist for Sentence Structure

- Can I improve my writing by . . .
- ___ eliminating sentence fragments?
 - ___ creating compound sentences to link closely related ideas?
 - ___ using dependent clauses to show how ideas are related?
 - ___ using dependent clauses to add details?
 - ___ punctuating compound and complex sentences correctly?

Subject-Verb Agreement



Theme: It's an Art What's the Message?

What decisions do you think these artists had to make before beginning their mural? When working on a collaborative project, artists must discuss matters such as subject, style, and composition. If they fail to agree, they probably won't succeed in producing a harmonious artwork.

In the art of writing, subject-verb agreement is important for effective communication. Mistakes in agreement may confuse and frustrate readers. This chapter will help you use subjects and verbs correctly.

Write Away: Public Art

Draw a sketch of a public work of art, such as a statue or mural, in your town or neighborhood. Then write a description of the artwork and discuss why someone might have wanted to display it in public. Save your writing in your  **Working Portfolio**.

Diagnostic Test: What Do You Know?

Choose the letter of the best revision for each underlined group of words.

Diego Rivera were one of Mexico's greatest artists. His murals and paintings have influenced artists around the world. Many portrays historical subjects. For example, *The History of Mexico* illustrates about 500 years of Mexican history. Within this mural is several groups of images. The first group show life in Mexico before the arrival of the Spaniards. Others portrays the Spanish conquest of Mexico and the cruelty of colonialism. The images reflects Rivera's deep concern for the suffering of common people.

1. A. Diego Rivera are one of Mexico's greatest artists.
B. Diego Rivera have been one of Mexico's greatest artists.
C. Diego Rivera was one of Mexico's greatest artists.
D. Correct as is
2. A. His murals and paintings has influenced
B. His murals and paintings has been influencing
C. His murals and paintings is influencing
D. Correct as is
3. A. Many portray
B. Many is portraying
C. Many has portrayed
D. Correct as is
4. A. *The History of Mexico* illustrate
B. *The History of Mexico* do illustrate
C. *The History of Mexico* have illustrated
D. Correct as is
5. A. Within this mural was several groups
B. Within this mural are several groups
C. Within this mural appears several groups
D. Correct as is
6. A. The first group shows
B. The first group are showing
C. The first group is showing
D. Correct as is
7. A. Others portray
B. Others does portray
C. Others has portrayed
D. Correct as is
8. A. The images was reflecting Rivera's deep concern
B. The images reflect Rivera's deep concern
C. The images has reflected Rivera's deep concern
D. Correct as is

Agreement in Number

1 Here's the Idea

- ▶ **A verb must agree with its subject in number.**

Number refers to whether a word is singular or plural. A word that refers to one person, place, thing, idea, action, or condition is singular. A word that refers to more than one is plural.

Singular and Plural Subjects

- ▶ **Singular subjects take singular verbs.**

The new **museum** **displays** works by local artists.
 SINGULAR SUBJECT SINGULAR VERB

She **enjoys** the towering sculptures at the art center.

- ▶ **Plural subjects take plural verbs.**

Chicago's art **museums** **display** priceless paintings.
 PLURAL SUBJECT PLURAL VERB

We **enjoy** the peaceful outdoor sculpture garden.



Most nouns that end in *s* or *es* are plural. For example, *artists* and *brushes* are plural nouns. However, most verbs that end in *s* are singular. *Paints* and *draws* are singular verb forms.

Verb Phrases

- ▶ **In a verb phrase, it is the first helping verb that agrees with the subject.** A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

Theresa **has collected** ceramic figurines.
 SINGULAR HELPING VERB

She **is building** a large collection.



Friends **have admired** her interesting collection.

↑ PLURAL HELPING VERB

They **have been finding** new figurines for her collection.

Doesn't and Don't

Two common contractions are *doesn't* and *don't*. Use *doesn't* with all singular subjects except *I* and *you*. Use *don't* with all plural subjects and with the pronouns *I* and *you*.

Samuel doesn't use computer clip art.

SINGULAR VERB: does + not = doesn't

We don't like slick and professional illustrations.

PLURAL VERB: do + not = don't

I don't like these pictures.

WITH PRONOUN I: do + not = don't

S-V AGREEMENT

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Errors in subject-verb agreement can occur when you revise your work. If you change a subject from singular to plural or vice versa, be sure to change the verb as well.

STUDENT MODEL

DRAFT

Three statues have been purchased for the park. Residents **want** to beautify the neighborhood.

REVISION

Three statues have been purchased for the park. An important resident **wants** to beautify the neighborhood.

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Agreement in Number

For each sentence, write the verb form that agrees in number with the subject.

African Kente Cloth

1. The Ashanti people of Ghana (has, have) been making *kente* cloth for centuries.
2. *Kente* weavers (creates, create) complex designs with bright colors and geometric patterns.
3. The designs (doesn't, don't) just provide visual pleasure.
4. Each element (has, have) a precise meaning.
5. For example, the color gold (suggests, suggest) mineral wealth.
6. A shield pattern (suggests, suggest) a defense against hostile forces.
7. Weavers often (takes, take) months to complete *kente* garments.
8. The Ashanti people (wears, wear) *kente* cloth on important occasions.
9. Some designs (is, are) reserved for royalty.
10. *Kente* garments (appears, appear) in many museum collections.

→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 612.

B. WRITING: Completing a Caption

Choose the correct verb forms to complete the caption for the photograph.

The color gold in this piece of *kente* cloth (symbolizes, symbolize) mineral wealth. These fabrics (is, are) made by the Ashanti people of Ghana.



1 Here's the Idea

A **compound subject** is made up of two or more subjects joined by a conjunction such as *and*, *or*, or *nor*.

Subjects Containing *And*

- ▶ A **compound subject whose parts are joined by *and* usually takes a plural verb.**

Georgia **and** Louise **paint** exceptionally well.



Sometimes a subject containing *and* refers to a single thing or idea, so a singular verb is used.

War **and** peace **is** the theme of the mural.

Subjects Containing *Or* or *Nor*

- ▶ **When the parts of a compound subject are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb should agree with the part closest to it.**

Either ticket stubs **or** a photo **completes** your collage.

Either a photo **or** ticket stubs **complete** your collage.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Writers sometimes reverse the order of compound subjects to make them sound more natural. If you do this, you may need to change the verb to make it agree with the new order.

The **students or the teacher** **is attending** the show.

The **teacher or the students** **are attending** the show.

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Compound Subjects

Identify the sentences containing mistakes in subject-verb agreement, and rewrite them correctly. If a sentence contains no error, write *Correct*.

Crafty Arts

1. Arts and crafts are often hard to tell apart.
2. A basket or pot serve a practical function, such as food storage.
3. Yet collectors and museum curators prizes these objects for their beauty.
4. Many pots and jars display high levels of artistry.
5. Even forks and spoons appears in museum collections.
6. Arms and armor occupies special halls in some museums.
7. Neither dirt nor blood stains remains on their shiny surfaces.
8. Adults and children find these tools of warfare appealing.
9. Antique beds, couches, or a rug seem enticing to the weary museum patron.
10. Fortunately, signs and watchful guards reminds us not to rest on them.

→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 613.

B. REVISING: Making Verbs Agree with Compound Subjects

Rewrite this article for a school newspaper so that verbs agree with compound subjects. There are five errors.

In My Opinion . . .

Many ideas and opinions is expressed visually in editorial cartoons. Familiar symbols and caricatures communicate the cartoonists' messages. For example, a torn flag or a battered Uncle Sam suggest trouble in the nation. Politicians and celebrities are often criticized by exaggerating their physical appearance. Pompous leaders and corrupt people makes good targets. Sometimes neither caricatures nor a visual symbol bring across a cartoonist's point clearly. In such a case, a speech balloon or a caption help readers understand the cartoon.

1 Here's the Idea

Some sentences—ones with subjects in unusual positions, ones containing predicate nouns, ones in which prepositional phrases separate subjects and verbs—can be tricky. Here are some tips for choosing the correct verb forms in these situations.

Subjects in Unusual Positions

A subject can follow a verb or part of a verb phrase in a question, a sentence beginning with *here* or *there*, or a sentence in which an adjective, an adverb, or a phrase is placed first.

Subjects in Unusual Positions

Type of Sentence	Example
Question	Does this music video contain interesting computer graphics?
Sentence beginning with <i>here</i> or <i>there</i>	Here is an on-air announcer with an enjoyable play list.
Sentence beginning with adverb, adjective, or phrase	Around the nation is heard the sound .

The following tips can help you to find the subject in one of these kinds of sentences.

Here's How Choosing a Correct Verb Form

(is, Are) the visual **effects** better than the song recording?

1. Rephrase the sentence so that the subject precedes the verb.
The visual **effects (is, are)** better than the song recording.
2. Determine whether the subject is singular or plural.
effects (plural)
3. Choose the verb form that agrees with the subject.
The visual **effects are** better than the song recording.
4. Add correct verb to the original sentence.
Are the visual **effects** better than the song recording?

Predicate Nouns

In a sentence containing a predicate noun, the verb should agree with the subject, not the predicate noun.



Nechita's **works** **have been** a **topic** of magazine articles.

Her **inspiration** **is** abstract **paintings** by Pablo Picasso.

Prepositional Phrases

The subject of a verb is never found in a prepositional phrase. Don't be fooled by words that come between a subject and a verb. Mentally block out those words. Then it will be easy to tell whether the subject is singular or plural.



The **colors** ~~of a Javanese batik garment~~ **indicate** where it came from.

Traditionally, the **pattern** ~~of symbols~~ **represents** things found in nature.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Writers sometimes place verbs before subjects to make their writing more interesting. When you do this, make sure that the verbs agree with their subjects.

LITERARY MODEL

Between two pieces of cardboard **were** a **letter** and a large color **photograph**.

The photograph showed John Wilson down on his right knee before a glistening dark wall. . . . Leaning against the wall to his right **was** Zebra's **drawing** of the helicopter and the zebra racing together across a facelike landscape.

—Chaim Potok, “Zebra”

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Agreement Problems in Sentences

Rewrite these sentences, correcting agreement errors. If a sentence contains no error, write *Correct*.

Poster Power

1. Does your classmates collect posters?
 2. On the walls of many teenagers' rooms hang pictures of favorite singers, actors, and athletes.
 3. An effective tool for advertising or announcing events is posters.
 4. Vibrant colors in a poster attracts the public's attention.
 5. Among the greatest of poster artists were Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.
 6. Has you ever seen Toulouse-Lautrec's bold, striking posters?
 7. Japanese prints were the source of his inspiration.
 8. There is few posters more famous than *I Want You!*
 9. On that World War I recruitment poster is a portrait of Uncle Sam.
 10. There is also patriotic posters from World War II.
- For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 613.

B. MIXED REVIEW: Proofreading and Editing

Find the five errors in subject-verb agreement in this paragraph. In each case, write the correct verb form.

Roll the Videotape

Does you ever record family celebrations with a video camera? Then you probably has the basic skills to create a work of video art. Video artists combine technology with artistic expression. Just as painters apply paint to canvas, video artists record images for television monitors. There is works of video art that tell stories, just like feature films. Others are more like sculptures or paintings. For example, the artist Nam June Paik has created a pyramid out of 40 television sets. On all of the sets play a video of a dancing man. Paik are one of the most prominent artists working with video.

1 Here's the Idea

► When used as subjects, some indefinite pronouns are always singular, some are always plural, and some can be singular or plural, depending on how they're used.

Remember, an indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that does not refer to a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

Indefinite Pronouns

Singular	another	everybody	nothing		
	anybody	everyone	one		
	anyone	everything	somebody		
	anything	neither	someone		
	each	nobody	something		
	either	no one			
Plural	both	few	many	several	
Singular or Plural	all	any	most	none	some

Singular indefinite pronouns take singular verbs.

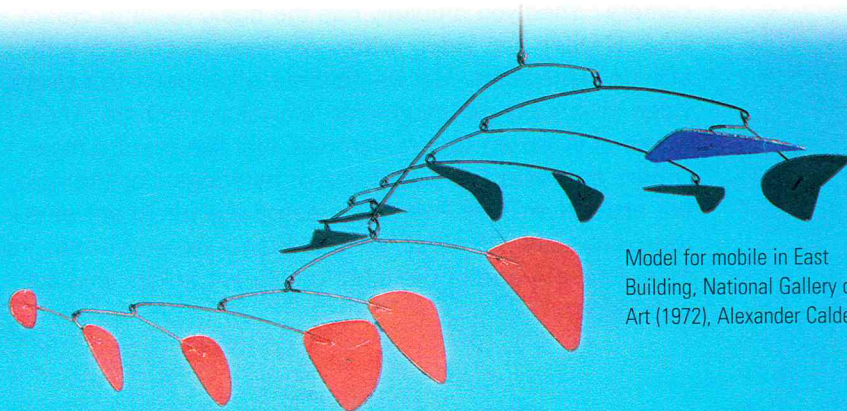
Everyone enjoys Alexander Calder's mobiles.

Something about them reminds people of childhood.

Plural indefinite pronouns take plural verbs.

Few of the mobiles have electric motors.

Many consist of metal, wood, and wire.



Model for mobile in East Building, National Gallery of Art (1972), Alexander Calder.

Singular or Plural?

The indefinite pronouns *all*, *any*, *most*, *none*, and *some* can be either singular or plural. When you use one of these words as a subject, think about the noun it refers to. If the noun is singular, use a singular verb; if it is plural, use a plural verb.

REFERS TO

All of the mobiles move in a breeze.

REFERS TO

Most of the design is ingenious.



Sometimes an indefinite pronoun refers to a noun in a previous sentence.

PLURAL NOUN

Many people attended the exhibition. **Most** were astonished.

INDEFINITE PRONOUN PLURAL VERB

2 Why It Matters in Writing

When you write about events for an assignment or a school newspaper, you will probably need to use indefinite pronouns as subjects. To help readers understand your writing, use correct subject-verb agreement.

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

A fascinating art show has opened this weekend in Biloxi. **Each** of the paintings portrays a different blues musician. **Many** are painted in a realistic style. **Some** of the art depicts older musicians who play acoustic instruments.

—Chris Bayard

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

Rewrite correctly each sentence in which the verb does not agree with the subject. If a sentence is correct, write *Correct*.

In Black and White

1. Many knows the saying "A picture's worth a thousand words."
 2. One remembers the fascinating images in photo essays.
 3. Few merely entertains people.
 4. Most addresses important real-life issues.
 5. For example, both *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* and *How the Other Half Lives* tell powerful stories.
 6. Some of the photographs reveals poverty.
 7. Others portrays nature's fury.
 8. Everyone are touched by pictures that capture human suffering.
 9. No one ignores such strong evidence of problems in society.
 10. All of this photography motivate people to take a stand.
- For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 614.



Mother and two children on road at Tule Lake City, September 1939.
Photo by Dorothea Lange.

B. WRITING: Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns

For each sentence, choose the verb form that agrees with the subject.

- (1) Everybody (enjoys, enjoy) our school's art fairs.
- (2) Most of the artworks (is, are) quite good. (3) Something always (makes, make) the students smile because it is so ridiculous. (4) Yet one (has, have) no need to fear humiliation.
- (5) None of the artists (gets, get) upset. (6) None of the criticism (is, are) mean-spirited. (7) Everyone (understands, understand) that artists should be encouraged. (8) Some (takes, take) longer to develop their talent. (9) Each of us (has, have) the right to express himself or herself in art.
- (10) All of the fairs (is, are) conducted in this spirit.

1 Here's the Idea

When collective nouns, nouns ending in *s*, titles, and numerical expressions are used as subjects, it can be difficult to tell whether they take singular or plural verbs.

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns name groups of people or things.

Common Collective Nouns

group	crew	flock	family	class	team
crowd	herd	public	club	faculty	choir

- ▶ **Many collective nouns can take singular or plural verbs, depending on how they are used.** When a collective noun refers to people or things acting as a group, it takes a singular verb.

The faculty sponsors an art exhibit each year.

(THE FACULTY MEMBERS ARE ACTING AS A GROUP.)

When a collective noun refers to people or things acting as individuals, it takes a plural verb.

The faculty disagree on the rules of the exhibit.

(THE FACULTY MEMBERS ARE ACTING AS INDIVIDUALS.)

Singular Nouns Ending in *S*

- ▶ **Some nouns that end in *s* or *ics* look plural but actually refer to singular concepts.** When used as subjects, they take singular verbs.

Singular Nouns with Plural Forms

measles	linguistics	news	pediatrics
politics	forensics	civics	mathematics
genetics	mechanics	physics	economics
ceramics	molasses	mumps	

 **Ceramics is** the art of making objects from clay.

 **The news includes** information about several exhibits.

Titles

▶ **Titles of works of art, literature, and music are singular.**

Even a title consisting of a plural noun takes a singular verb.

Sunflowers is a famous painting by Vincent van Gogh.

Amounts and Time

▶ **Words and phrases that express weights, measures, numbers, and lengths of time are often treated as singular.** They take singular verbs when they refer to amounts rather than numbers of individual items.

Measures and Amounts

Measures	seven pounds two cups	Two hundred twenty-five tons is the weight of the Statue of Liberty.
Amounts	three hours nine dollars	Four years seems a long time to work on a single portrait.



A fraction can take a singular or plural verb, depending on whether it refers to a single part or to a number of items.

Five-sixths of the canvas is blank.

(THE FRACTION REFERS TO ONE PART OF THE CANVAS.)

Two-thirds of the paintings are abstract.

(THE FRACTION REFERS TO A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS.)

2 Why It Matters in Writing

When you write about science or math, you need to use numbers, weights, and measures. Show your readers that you know your stuff by using the correct verb forms with them.

Six-tenths of the human body is water.

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Problem Subjects

Rewrite the underlined words in the following sentences to correct the mistake in subject-verb agreement. If a sentence contains no error, write *Correct*.

Memorial Wall

1. In *Country* describe a girl's effort to learn more about her father, who was killed in Vietnam.
2. Her family travel to Washington, D.C., to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
3. Many spend time at the wall designed by Maya Lin.
4. Each of the wall's halves are about 250 feet long.
5. Three days are how long it takes to read all 58,209 names of soldiers killed or missing in the war.
6. Mathematics fails to explain the wall's dramatic effect.
7. The public also views other sculptures at the memorial.
8. *Three Servicemen* by Frederick Hart stand near the wall.
9. Our class have looked at an exhibit of objects left at the wall.
10. A group of photos show a young man with family and friends.

→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 614.

S-V AGREEMENT



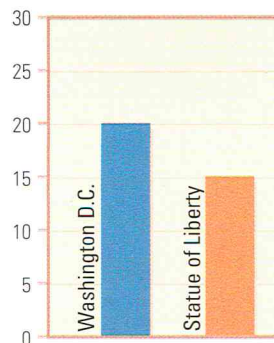
B. WRITING: Using Fractions Correctly

Choose the correct verb form to complete each sentence about the bar graph. Then write a sentence explaining how you chose the correct form.

1. Two-thirds of the class (is, are) going on the trip to Washington, D.C.
2. One-half of the students (has, have) seen the Statue of Liberty.

Numbers of Students Who Have Visited Two Sites

(class size = 30)



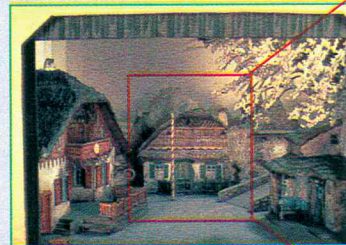
Grammar in Math

Word Problems

When you write and solve word problems, you need to pay attention to grammar. Subject-verb agreement can be tricky—especially if you're using fractions. In the following word problem, the subjects and the verbs that agree with them are highlighted.

240 Section 6 Multiplication of Fractions

42 Theater Northern Illinois University has a collection of scale models of stage sets. These models show sets that were built for Early American performances of operas. The models are built to a scale of $\frac{1}{48}$ of the actual size. The model shown is a set representing a public square in nineteenth century Bohemia, a region of the Czech Republic.



Exploration:

A **door** on one of the buildings in the model **is** $\frac{11}{16}$ in. wide and $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. tall. Explain how you would find the actual dimensions of the door on the stage set.

The word *is* agrees with the subject *door*, not with the plural word *buildings*.

Singular subject $\frac{11}{16}$ in. agrees with the singular verb *is*.

EXAMPLE

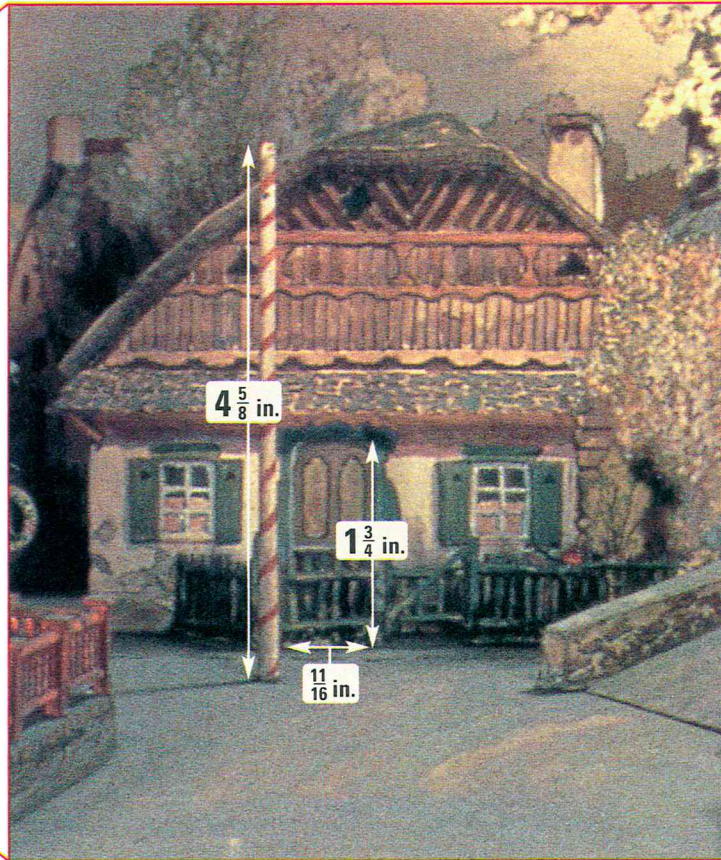
Describe how you would find the width of the actual door on the stage set.

ANSWER

$\frac{11}{16}$ in. is multiplied by 48 to find the width of the door on the stage set.

Practice and Apply

- A. Use the information on the photograph of the model to write and answer a word problem. Figure out how many poles could be cut from a dowel that is 1 foot long.



S-V AGREEMENT

- B. Write and solve a word problem in which you find the size of the pole on the actual stage set. Be sure you explain the proportion of the model to the set. Remember—if you are using fractions as subjects, you should use a singular verb.

Mixed Review

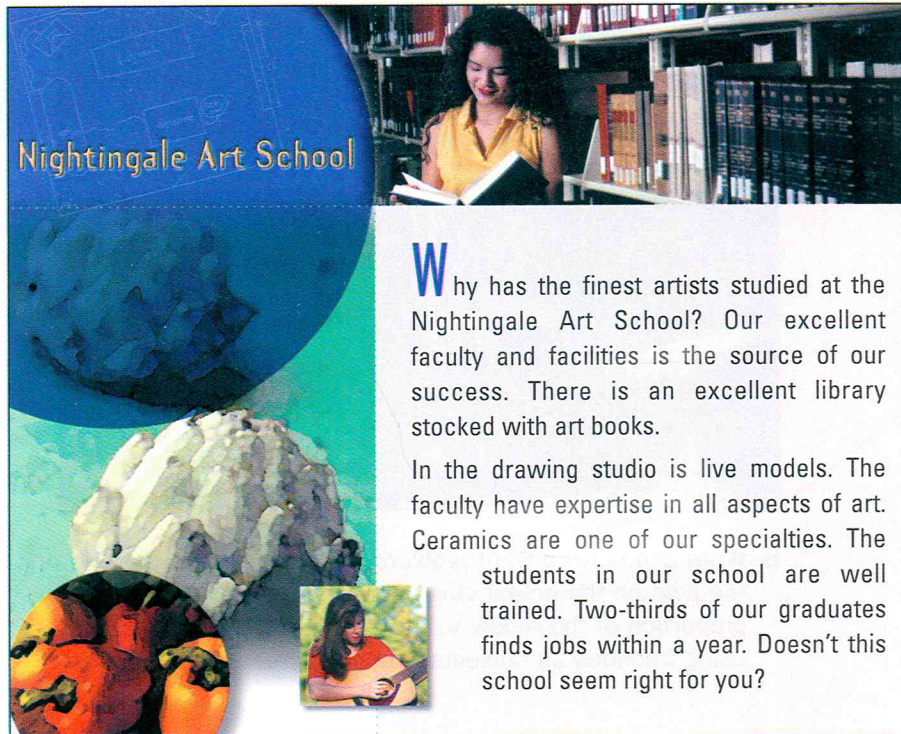
A. Agreement in Number, Compound Subjects, and Indefinite Pronouns

Write the verb form that agrees with the subject of each sentence.

1. Curators and conservators (is, are) important employees in museums.
2. Each of these people (has, have) specific responsibilities.
3. A curator (arranges, arrange) artworks in museum galleries.
4. Curators also (looks, look) for artworks to add to museums' collections.
5. Major museums (has, have) a curator for each department.
6. A conservator (cleans, clean) artworks.
7. Conservators also (performs, perform) scientific tests on them.
8. The tests (reveals, reveal) how old the artworks are and how they were made.
9. A conservator or a curator (needs, need) extensive training.
10. Most (has, have) advanced degrees in art history.

B. Additional Agreement Problems

Rewrite the following advertisement, correcting six errors in subject-verb agreement.



Nightingale Art School

Why has the finest artists studied at the Nightingale Art School? Our excellent faculty and facilities is the source of our success. There is an excellent library stocked with art books.

In the drawing studio is live models. The faculty have expertise in all aspects of art. Ceramics are one of our specialties. The students in our school are well trained. Two-thirds of our graduates finds jobs within a year. Doesn't this school seem right for you?

Mastery Test: What Did You Learn?

Choose the letter of the best revision for each underlined group of words.

There are⁽¹⁾ a remarkable example of folk art in Los Angeles, called the Watts Towers. This group of sculptures were⁽²⁾ created by Simon Rodia. The group contain⁽³⁾ nine sculptures. Some are⁽⁴⁾ nearly 100 feet tall. Rodia gave them names such as *Ship of Marco Polo* and *Santa Maria Tower*. These names remind⁽⁵⁾ us of Rodia's Italian heritage. Each of the sculptures are made⁽⁶⁾ of steel rods, wire mesh, and mortar. Bottle caps, seashells, and other found objects is⁽⁷⁾ imbedded in the mortar for decoration. Tourists from around the world comes⁽⁸⁾ to view the Watts Towers.

1. A. There have been
B. There is
C. There were
D. Correct as is
2. A. group of sculptures are
B. group of sculpture is
C. group of sculptures was
D. Correct as is
3. A. The group contains
B. The group have contained
C. The group are containing
D. Correct as is
4. A. Some is
B. Some stands
C. Some was
D. Correct as is
5. A. names does remind
B. names has reminded
C. names is reminding
D. Correct as is
6. A. Each of the sculptures were made
B. Each of the sculptures have been made
C. Each of the sculptures is made
D. Correct as is
7. A. Bottle caps, seashells, and other found objects was imbedded
B. Bottle caps, seashells, and other found objects are imbedded
C. Bottle caps, seashells, and other found objects has been imbedded
D. Correct as is
8. A. come
B. has come
C. is coming
D. Correct as is

Student Help Desk

Subject-Verb Agreement at a Glance

A singular subject takes a singular verb.

The **artist paints** dancers.

A plural subject takes a plural verb.

Dancers pose in her studio.

Subjects and Verbs

Verb phrase The first helping verb should agree with the subject.

Prepositional phrase between subject and verb Block out the phrase when deciding which verb form to use.

Compound subject containing and Always use a plural verb.

Compound subject containing or or nor The verb should agree with the part of the subject closest to it.

Indefinite pronoun A singular pronoun takes a singular verb; a plural pronoun takes a plural verb.
Some pronouns can be singular or plural.

Collective noun Use a singular verb if it refers to a whole, a plural verb if it refers to individuals.

Singular noun ending in s Use a singular verb.

Title or expression of amount Use a singular verb.

Tricky Cases

Folk art is getting expensive.
Collectors are raising prices.

The **vases** ~~in this museum~~ **are** priceless.

The **artist and** his **work** **arouse** controversy.

Neither the **critics** **nor** the **average citizen** **likes** this exhibit.

Everyone **admires** this masterpiece.
Few **understand** it.
Some of the paint **is** peeling.
Some of the critics **want** the museum to restore it.

The **staff** **selects** the paintings.
The **staff** **are** **arguing** among themselves.

Politics **is** an art.

Three ounces of gold **was** used in the sculpture.

Other Agreement Problems

Slippery Subjects



Predicate noun

Make sure the verb agrees with the subject.

Animals **are** the subject of his photo series.

The **subject** of his photo series **is** animals.

Question

Change the question to a statement to find the subject.

(Is, are) the tapestries on the wall?

The **tapestries** **are** on the wall.

Statement in which subject follows verb

Turn the sentence parts around before deciding on a verb form.

Here **(is, are)** the expressionist paintings.

The expressionist **paintings** **are** here.

Beneath each painting **(is, are)** a title and a date.

A **title** and a **date** **are** beneath each painting.

The Bottom Line

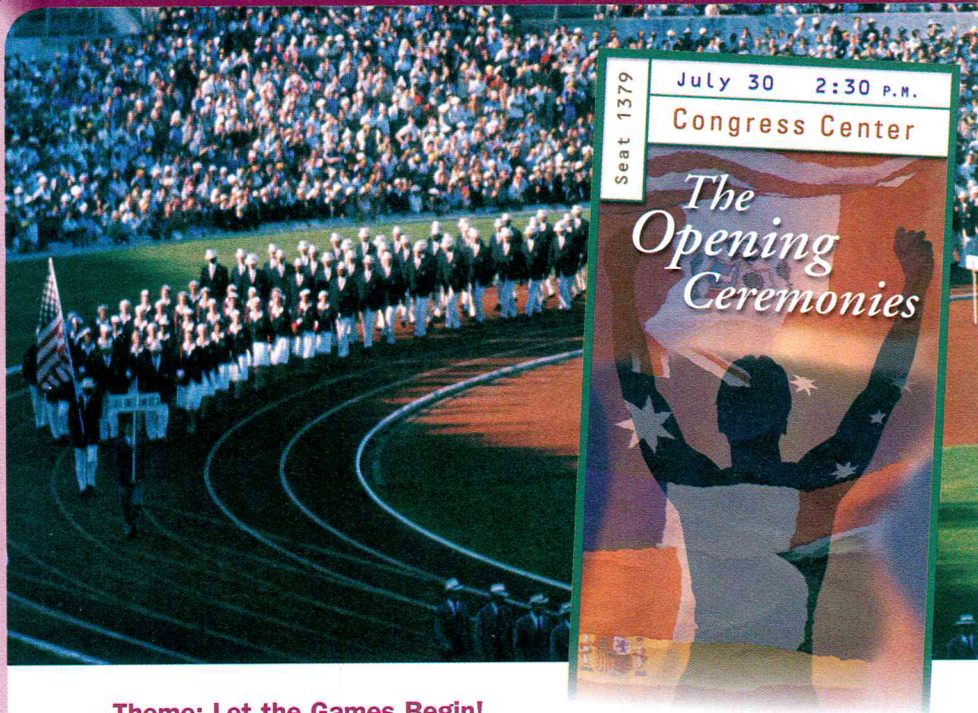


Checklist for Subject-Verb Agreement

Have I . . .

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> used singular verbs with singular subjects? | <input type="checkbox"/> made verbs agree with the closest parts of compound subjects containing <i>or</i> or <i>nor</i> ? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> used plural verbs with plural subjects? | <input type="checkbox"/> used correct verb forms with indefinite-pronoun subjects? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> made the first helping verbs in verb phrases agree with the verbs' subjects? | <input type="checkbox"/> used singular verbs to agree with titles and some numerical expressions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> used plural verbs with compound subjects containing <i>and</i> ? | <input type="checkbox"/> used verbs that agree with subjects in unusual positions? |


Capitalization



Theme: Let the Games Begin!
Here's the Ticket

Congratulations! You are one of the lucky spectators who has a ticket to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. What is the date and the time of the ceremony? Where is it scheduled to take place? On the ticket above, capitalized words such as *July* and *Congress Center* provide you with the answers. We use capitalization as a way to make certain words—such as names, titles, and dates—stand out from others.

Write Away: Olympic Favorites

Write a paragraph describing your favorite Olympic event or competitor. Save the paragraph in your  **Working Portfolio**.