

22. Identify The Sentence In Which The Underlined Verb Does Not Agree With Its Subject. (1 Point Chance)

22. Identify The Sentence In Which The Underlined Verb Does Not Agree With Its Subject. (1 Point Chance) is a common question type in grammar assessments that tests your understanding of subject-verb agreement. Mastering this skill is essential for clear and correct writing, whether you're working on essays, reports, or everyday communication. In this article, we will explore how to identify errors in subject-verb agreement, provide strategies for spotting incorrect sentences, and offer practice tips to improve your accuracy.

Understanding Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement is the grammatical rule that the subject of a sentence and its verb must agree in number – singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take plural verbs.

Basic Rules of Subject-Verb Agreement

- **Singular subjects** require singular verbs. For example: *The dog barks loudly.*
- **Plural subjects** require plural verbs. For example: *The dogs bark loudly.*
- **Subjects joined by 'and'** are usually plural. For example: *My brother and sister are coming.*
- **Subjects joined by 'or' or 'nor'** agree with the nearer subject. For example: *Either the teacher or the students are responsible.*

Common Pitfalls in Subject-Verb Agreement

Identifying the sentence with incorrect agreement often involves watching out for:

- The distractor of intervening phrases or clauses between subject and verb.
- Indefinite pronouns (such as everyone, each, someone) that are singular.

- Compound subjects where one part is singular and the other plural.
- Collective nouns (such as team, group, class) that can be singular or plural depending on context.

How to Identify the Sentence with the Incorrect Verb-Subject Agreement

When faced with a question asking you to identify the sentence where the verb does not agree with its subject, follow these steps:

Step 1: Find the Subject

Locate the main subject of the sentence. It's often earlier in the sentence, but sometimes it can be separated by phrases or clauses.

Step 2: Determine the Number of the Subject

Decide if the subject is singular or plural. Be aware of tricky subjects like indefinite pronouns or collective nouns.

Step 3: Check the Verb

Look at the verb associated with the subject. Is it in the correct form? Does it agree in number with the subject?

Step 4: Spot the Discrepancy

Identify if the verb's form matches the subject's number. If not, the sentence contains an agreement error.

Examples of Sentences for Practice

Let's analyze some example sentences to illustrate how to find the incorrect agreement:

Example 1

- The list of items are on the table.

Analysis: The subject is 'list' (singular), but the verb 'are' is plural.
Correct sentence: The list of items is on the table. The incorrect verb here is 'are'.

Example 2

- Each of the players have a chance to participate.

Analysis: 'Each' is singular, so the correct verb is 'has', not 'have'.
Correct: Each of the players has a chance to participate.

Example 3

- The team are winning the match.

Analysis: 'Team' is a collective noun that is singular in American English; hence, the correct verb is 'is'. Correct: The team is winning the match.

Practice: How to Spot the Sentence with the Wrong Verb Agreement

Now, let's look at some sample sentences, and you can try to identify which one contains a verb that does not agree with its subject.

1. The students in the class is taking their exams seriously.
2. The bouquet of flowers are beautiful and fragrant.
3. Neither the manager nor the employees was aware of the new policy.
4. The books on the shelf needs to be organized.
5. Everyone are invited to the party tonight.

Answer Key:

- Sentence 1: 'Students' is plural, so correct verb is 'are'. The incorrect verb is 'is'.
- Sentence 2: 'Bouquet' is singular, so 'are' is incorrect. Correct: 'is'.
- Sentence 3: 'Neither' is singular, so 'was' is correct.
- Sentence 4: 'Books' is plural, so 'needs' is incorrect. Correct: 'need'.
- Sentence 5: 'Everyone' is singular, so 'are' is incorrect. Correct: 'is'.

Tips for Improving Your Ability to Identify Verb-Subject Agreement Errors

Improving your skills in spotting agreement errors involves practice and awareness. Here are some practical tips:

1. Practice Regularly

Engage with grammar exercises that focus on subject-verb agreement. Use online quizzes, worksheets, or grammar books.

2. Read Widely

Reading well-edited written material helps internalize correct grammatical structures.

3. Pay Attention to Tricky Subjects

Be cautious with indefinite pronouns, collective nouns, and compound subjects—they are often sources of errors.

4. Break Down Sentences

If a sentence is long or complex, break it into parts to identify the subject and check the verb agreement more easily.

5. Use Grammar Tools

Leverage grammar checking tools to identify potential agreement errors, then analyze why they are flagged.

Conclusion

Identifying the sentence in which the underlined verb does not agree with its subject is an essential skill in mastering English grammar. By understanding the basic rules, recognizing common pitfalls, and practicing regularly with example sentences, you can improve your ability to spot errors quickly and accurately. Remember, attention to detail and systematic analysis are key to excelling in subject-verb agreement questions, especially those that carry only a single point in assessments. Keep practicing, stay attentive to sentence structure, and soon, you'll confidently identify agreement errors in any sentence you encounter.

Frequently Asked Questions

In the sentence 'The list of items are on the table,' does the underlined verb agree with its subject?

No, because 'list' is singular, so the correct verb should be 'is,' making the sentence 'The list of items is on the table.'

Does the sentence 'The team of players are winning the game' contain a subject-verb agreement error?

Yes, because 'team' is singular, so the correct verb should be 'is,' not 'are.'

In the sentence 'My collection of stamps are valuable,' is the underlined verb correctly agreeing with its subject?

No, since 'collection' is singular, the verb should be 'is,' so the correct sentence is 'My collection of stamps is valuable.'

Identify if there's an agreement error in 'The data suggests a different conclusion'?

No, 'data' is plural in Latin but usually treated as singular in modern English, so 'suggests' is correct in American English.

Does the sentence 'Either the students or the teacher are responsible for the mistake' have a subject-verb agreement error?

Yes, because when using 'either...or,' the verb agrees with the nearer subject. Since 'teacher' is singular, the correct verb is 'is,' making it 'Either the students or the teacher is responsible.'

In the sentence 'The committee decide on the new policy,' does the verb agree with the subject?

No, because 'committee' is singular, so the correct verb should be 'decides,' making it 'The committee decides on the new policy.'

Is there a subject-verb agreement error in 'The number of applicants has increased'?

No, because 'number' is singular, so 'has' is correct.

In the sentence 'The crowd were cheering loudly,' does the underlined verb agree with the subject?

It depends on the variety of English. In American English, 'crowd' is singular, so 'was cheering' would be correct. In British English, 'were cheering' can be acceptable.

Does the sentence 'The staff are working late tonight' contain a subject-verb agreement error?

No, 'staff' is treated as plural in British English, so 'are working' is correct.

Identify if the underlined verb in 'The majority of the students has submitted their assignments' agrees with the subject.

Yes, because 'majority' is singular, so 'has' is correct.

Additional Resources

Identify The Sentence In Which The Underlined Verb Does Not Agree With Its Subject. (1 Point Chance)

In the realm of English grammar, one of the most fundamental and often challenging concepts for learners is ensuring verb agreement with the subject. The instruction to "Identify The Sentence In Which The Underlined Verb Does Not Agree With Its Subject" is a common exercise designed to sharpen one's grammatical precision. This skill is essential not only for academic success but also for clear, professional, and effective communication. When a verb does not agree with its subject, it can lead to confusion, ambiguity, or a perception of grammatical inaccuracy. This guide aims to explore the nuances of subject-verb agreement, how to spot errors, and strategies to improve your ability to identify mismatched verbs in sentences.

Understanding Subject-Verb Agreement

Before diving into specific examples, it's vital to understand the core principle: a verb must agree with its subject in number and person. This

means:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.
- Indefinite pronouns and compound subjects have their own rules, which often require careful attention.

Basic Rules of Subject-Verb Agreement

- Singular subjects (e.g., he, she, it, the dog, the book) take singular verbs (e.g., runs, is, has).
- Plural subjects (e.g., they, we, the dogs, the books) take plural verbs (e.g., run, are, have).
- When the subject is indefinite (e.g., everyone, each, somebody), the verb usually agrees with the notion of singularity or plurality, depending on context.

Common Errors That Lead to Disagreement

Mistakes often occur in complex sentences, with compound subjects, or when intervening words or phrases come between the subject and the verb. Some typical errors include:

- Incorrect matching in compound subjects (e.g., The teacher and the students was → should be were)
- Misplaced modifiers or intervening phrases that confuse the subject's true identity.
- Indefinite pronouns that are singular or plural depending on context.
- Collective nouns (e.g., team, staff) which may take singular or plural verbs depending on whether the group acts as a unit or individually.

How to Approach the Exercise

When asked to identify the sentence where the underlined verb does not agree with its subject, follow these steps:

1. Identify the subject of the sentence.
2. Determine if the subject is singular or plural.
3. Check the underlined verb to see if it correctly matches the subject's number.
4. Look for distractors or tricky parts such as intervening words or phrases.
5. Select the sentence where the verb does not match the subject in number.

Practical Examples and Analysis

Let's analyze some sample sentences to illustrate how to spot the disagreement.

Example 1:

The list of items are on the table.

- Subject: "The list of items" (singular)
- Verb: "are" (plural)
- Issue: The subject is singular, but the verb is plural.
- Correct form: "The list of items is on the table."
- Conclusion: The sentence with "are" is incorrect.

Example 2:

Neither of the students has submitted the assignment.

- Subject: "Neither" (singular)
- Verb: "has" (singular)
- Agreement: Correct.
- Note: Even when "of" is involved, the subject "neither" remains singular.

Example 3:

The team are going to win the championship.

- Subject: "The team" (considered singular as a group acting together)
- Verb: "are" (plural)
- Issue: Depending on the context, "team" can be singular or plural. In American English, it's often treated as singular.
- Correct: "The team is going to win the championship."
- Conclusion: The verb "are" does not agree with the subject in this context.

List of Common Mistakes to Watch For

When tackling such questions, be aware of these common pitfalls:

- Subjects connected by "and" usually take a plural verb.
- The cat and the dog are playing outside.
- Subjects connected by "or" or "nor" take a verb that agrees with the closer subject.
- Either the teacher or the students are responsible.
- Indefinite pronouns such as everyone, somebody, nobody are singular.
- Everyone is invited to the party.
- Collective nouns can be tricky; treat as singular or plural based on whether the group acts as one or separately.
- The staff is meeting today. (acting as a unit)
- The staff are arguing among themselves. (acting individually)

Practice Exercise: Identify the Sentence With the Incorrect Verb Agreement

Below are several sentences with underlined verbs. Find the one where the underlined verb does not agree with its subject.

1. The books on the shelf needs to be organized.
2. The mice are causing trouble in the kitchen.
3. The news are exciting today.
4. My family is planning a vacation.
5. Neither of the options looks appealing.

Answer: Sentence 1 – "needs" should be "need" because the subject "The books" is plural.

Tips for Mastering Subject-Verb Agreement

- Always identify the true subject, ignoring prepositional phrases or words that come between the subject and verb.
- Be cautious with collective nouns; determine whether they are acting as a single entity or individuals.
- Watch for tricky words like "each," "every," "either," "neither," which are singular.
- Check for compound subjects connected by "and" (plural) and those connected by "or" or "nor" (singular or plural depending on the closest subject).

Final Thoughts: Improving Your Skills

Mastering the skill of identifying sentences where the underlined verb does not agree with its subject is a foundational step toward grammatical accuracy. Regular practice with varied sentence structures will enhance your ability to quickly spot errors and understand the nuances of English grammar. Remember, paying close attention to the subject and understanding its number and person is key to ensuring correct verb agreement. Keep practicing with exercises, read widely, and analyze sentences carefully to become more confident in this essential grammatical skill.

In summary, the exercise "Identify The Sentence In Which The Underlined Verb Does Not Agree With Its Subject" challenges you to apply your understanding of subject-verb agreement rules, recognize common errors, and develop a keen eye for grammatical detail. With diligent practice and attention to detail, you'll improve your grammatical accuracy and become more proficient in crafting clear, correct sentences.

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