

Exercise 1 Underline The Subject Of Each Sentence. Then, Choose The Verb In Parentheses That Agrees With

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Introduction to Subject-Verb Agreement and Its Importance

Understanding the rules of subject-verb agreement is fundamental for mastering English grammar. When constructing sentences, the subject and the verb must agree in number and person to ensure clarity and correctness. This exercise, which involves underlining the subject of each sentence and selecting the correct verb from parentheses, helps learners develop a keen eye for grammatical consistency. Whether you're a student preparing for exams or a professional aiming to improve your writing skills, practicing these kinds of exercises can significantly enhance your language proficiency.

What Is Subject-Verb Agreement?

Definition and Basic Rules

Subject-verb agreement refers to the grammatical rule that the subject of a sentence must match the verb in number. For example, a singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb.

Examples:

- The cat (singular) runs (singular verb).
- The dogs (plural) run (plural verb).

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Many learners struggle with agreement in complex sentences, especially those with compound subjects, indefinite pronouns, or collective nouns. Some common issues include:

- Confusing singular and plural subjects.
- Overlooking intervening words that separate the subject and verb.

- Misidentifying indefinite pronouns like everyone, each, or none.

To avoid these mistakes, always identify the subject first and then choose the correct verb form.

How to Approach Exercise 1

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Read each sentence carefully.
2. Underline the subject of the sentence.
 - The subject is the person, place, thing, or idea that performs the action or is described.
3. Identify the verb in parentheses.
4. Determine if the subject is singular or plural.
5. Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.

This structured approach ensures accuracy and boosts confidence in handling subject-verb agreement exercises.

Examples of Underlining Subjects and Choosing Correct Verbs

Sample Sentences with Explanations

1. (is / are) The boy is playing in the park.
 - Subject: boy (singular)
 - Correct verb: is
2. (has / have) The students have finished their homework.
 - Subject: students (plural)
 - Correct verb: have
3. (was / were) The movie was exciting.
 - Subject: movie (singular)
 - Correct verb: was
4. (does / do) The teacher does the lesson plan every day.
 - Subject: teacher (singular)
 - Correct verb: does

5. (seems / seem) The news seems important.

- Subject: news (singular) — even though it ends with 's', it's singular.
- Correct verb: seems

Types of Subjects and Corresponding Verbs

Simple Subjects

Simple subjects are single nouns or pronouns. They are straightforward in determining agreement:

- Nouns: dog, car, idea.
- Pronouns: he, she, it, they.

Compound Subjects

When two or more subjects are joined by and, the subject is plural, and the verb should also be plural:

- The boy and girl are playing outside.
- My brother and sister live in New York.

However, if the compound subjects are considered a single entity, the verb remains singular:

- Macaroni and cheese is my favorite dish.

Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

Some indefinite pronouns are always singular, while others can be singular or plural depending on context:

- Always singular: everyone, each, somebody, nothing
- Everyone is invited to the party.
- Singular or plural: some, any, none (depends on context)
- Some of the cake is gone.
- Some of the cookies are missing.

Collective Nouns

Nouns like team, group, audience are singular when acting as a unit but can be plural if emphasizing individual members:

- The team is winning.
- The team are arguing among themselves.

Practical Exercises and Practice Tips

Sample Exercise List

Engage with the following exercises to reinforce your understanding:

1. Underline the subject in each sentence.
2. Choose the correct verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.
3. Verify your answers by reviewing the rules of subject-verb agreement.

Sample Sentences:

1. The cats (sleeps / sleep) peacefully on the sofa.
2. Neither of the students (knows / know) the answer.
3. The committee (has / have) reached a decision.
4. The book on the table (belongs / belong) to Sarah.
5. A bouquet of roses (is / are) on the windowsill.

Answers:

1. sleep
2. knows
3. has
4. belongs
5. is

Common Mistakes to Avoid

While practicing, be aware of typical errors:

- Ignoring intervening words: Words like along with, as well as, including do not change the subject's number.
- Correct: The teacher along with her students is arriving soon.
- Misidentifying the subject: Sometimes, the subject is not at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: There are many reasons to learn English.
- Overlooking tricky indefinite pronouns: Remember that everyone and each are singular.

Conclusion: The Benefits of Mastering Subject-Verb Agreement

Mastering subject-verb agreement through exercises like underlining the subject and choosing the correct verb is crucial for clear and professional communication. It enhances your writing accuracy, helps prevent grammatical errors, and boosts your confidence in both academic and professional settings. Regular practice of these exercises develops an instinct for correct sentence structure, which in turn improves overall language proficiency.

Remember, the key steps involve carefully identifying the subject, understanding its number, and selecting the appropriate verb. With consistent effort, recognizing subject-verb agreement issues becomes second nature. Whether you're preparing for exams, writing reports, or engaging in daily communication, strong grammatical skills serve as a solid foundation for effective language use.

Start practicing today by creating your own sentences, underlining the subjects, and choosing the correct verbs. The more you practice, the more natural it will become!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main objective of Exercise 1 involving underlining the subject?

The main objective is to identify and underline the subject in each sentence and then choose the correct verb that agrees with that subject.

How does Exercise 1 help improve understanding of subject-

verb agreement?

It helps learners recognize the subject in a sentence and select the appropriate verb form, reinforcing proper agreement rules.

What types of sentences are typically included in this exercise?

The exercise usually includes simple sentences with singular and plural subjects to practice matching verbs correctly.

Why is it important to underline the subject before choosing the verb?

Underlining the subject helps focus attention on the main noun or pronoun, making it easier to select the correct verb form that agrees with it.

Can this exercise be useful for ESL learners, and why?

Yes, it is very useful for ESL learners because it develops their understanding of sentence structure and improves their grammar skills related to subject-verb agreement.

Additional Resources

Exercise 1: Underline the Subject of Each Sentence and Choose the Verb in Parentheses That Agrees With It

Exercise 1: Underline the subject of each sentence and choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with it is a fundamental activity designed to strengthen your understanding of sentence structure and subject-verb agreement. Mastering this skill is essential for writing clear, grammatically correct sentences, whether you're working on academic papers, professional communication, or everyday writing. This guide will walk you through the process, offering detailed explanations, strategies, and examples to help you excel at this exercise.

Why Is This Exercise Important?

Understanding the subject of a sentence and selecting the correct verb form are foundational skills in English grammar. When these elements are correctly identified and matched, your sentences become more precise and easier to understand. Conversely, errors in subject-verb agreement can lead to confusion, misinterpretation, and grammatical mistakes that undermine your credibility as a writer or speaker.

Key benefits of mastering this exercise include:

- Improved grammatical correctness
- Enhanced sentence structure awareness

- Greater confidence in editing and proofreading
- Better comprehension of complex sentences

Breaking Down the Exercise

The exercise involves two main tasks:

1. Underline the subject of each sentence.
2. Choose the correct verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject.

Let's explore each step in detail.

Step 1: Identifying the Subject of a Sentence

What Is the Subject?

The subject of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea that performs the action or is described. It typically answers the question "Who?" or "What?" before the verb.

How to Find the Subject

- Locate the verb first. Once you find the verb, ask "Who?" or "What?" before it.
- Identify the noun or pronoun that answers that question. That noun or pronoun is the subject.

Common Challenges

- Sentences with multiple nouns or complex structures. Be cautious of compound subjects or sentences where the subject is separated from the verb.
- Ignore phrases that come between the subject and verb. For example, in "The bouquet of roses was beautiful," the subject is "The bouquet of roses," not "roses."

Practice Tip

Always underline the main noun or pronoun that is performing the action or being described.

Step 2: Choosing the Correct Verb in Parentheses

Subject-Verb Agreement Rules

- Singular subjects take singular verbs (e.g., he runs, the cat is).
- Plural subjects take plural verbs (e.g., they run, the cats are).

Special Cases

- Indefinite pronouns like everyone, each, either, neither, etc., are usually singular.

- Compound subjects joined by "and" are generally plural (e.g., Tom and Jerry are friends), but watch for exceptions (e.g., Macaroni and cheese is my favorite dish).

Choosing the Correct Verb

- Read the sentence carefully.
- Determine if the subject is singular or plural.
- Select the verb form in parentheses that matches.

Step 3: Combining Both Tasks

Once you've identified the subject and chosen the correct verb, verify that they agree in number and person. This step helps avoid common mistakes like:

- Using "is" with plural subjects.
- Using "are" with singular subjects.
- Confusing "was" and "were" in past tense.

Practical Approach: Step-by-Step Example

Let's illustrate the process with an example:

Sentence:

"The team (is/are) winning the game."

Step 1: Underline the subject.

- The subject is "The team".

Step 2: Determine if "The team" is singular or plural.

- "Team" is singular as a noun, so it takes a singular verb.

Step 3: Choose the correct verb from parentheses.

- "is" (singular) or "are" (plural).
- Since the subject is singular, select "is".

Final sentence:

"The team is winning the game."

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Misidentifying the subject: Always double-check the noun or pronoun performing the action.
- Ignoring intervening phrases: Phrases like "along with," "as well as," "including," etc., don't change the number of the subject.
- Overlooking collective nouns: Words like "group," "staff," or "team" can be singular or plural depending on context.

List of Tips for Success

1. Always underline the subject first before choosing the verb.
2. Ignore prepositional phrases that come between the subject and the verb.
3. Check the number (singular/plural) of the subject before selecting the verb.
4. Be cautious with indefinite pronouns: most are singular.
5. Watch for compound subjects joined by "and" or "or."
6. Read the sentence aloud to see if it sounds correct.

Practice Exercises

To hone your skills, practice with the following sample sentences. Underline the subject and choose the correct verb form.

1. The dog (bark/barks) loudly at night.
2. Neither the students nor the teacher (was/were) ready for the test.
3. The books on the shelf (is/are) dusty.
4. My brother or my sister (has/have) the keys.
5. The pieces of cake (was/were) delicious.
6. Each of the players (has/have) a role to play.
7. The committee (decide/decides) on the new policy.
8. The news (was/were) surprising to everyone.
9. The pair of shoes (is/are) in the closet.
10. The children (enjoy/enjoys) playing outside.

Final Thoughts

Exercise 1: Underline the subject of each sentence and choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with it is more than just a grammar drill; it's a foundational skill that enhances your overall language proficiency. Developing a habit of carefully identifying subjects and matching them with the correct verb forms will greatly improve your writing clarity and grammatical accuracy.

Remember, attention to detail makes all the difference. With consistent practice and the tips outlined in this guide, you'll become confident in navigating complex sentences and ensuring your grammar is impeccable.

Happy practicing!

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