

Lesson 1.10 Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement means that the verb must agree in number with the subject of the sentence. If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

The girl *flips* the pages of the book. The girls *flip* the pages of the book.

When a sentence contains a compound subject connected by the word **and**, use a plural verb.

The truck **and** the bus *stop* at the railroad tracks.

When a sentence contains a compound subject connected by the words **or** or **nor**, use a verb that agrees with the subject that is closer to the verb.

Neither the teacher **nor** her students *saw* that movie.

Either the athletes **or** the coach *plans* the potluck.

If the subject and the verb are separated by a word or words, be sure that the verb still agrees with the subject.

The *scanner*, as well as the printer, *is* broken.

Identify It

In each item, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- Jaya (is, are) very talented at identifying animal tracks.
- She and her mom (goes, go) hiking in a nearby nature preserve at least once a week.
- Deer (stop, stops) near the edge of the pond to sip the cool water.
- Jaya quickly (identify, identifies) their tracks.
- Neither Jaya nor Mrs. Sharma (know, knows) what kind of animal gnawed on the bark of a tree bedside the trail.
- There is a shuffling sound in the bushes, and a chipmunk, in addition to several blue jays, (peeks, peek) out before scurrying away.
- Beavers (has, have) constructed a dam of tightly stacked twigs and branches.
- Possums and raccoons (leave, leaves) behind scat that allows Jaya and her mother to identify them.
- The animal track guide (is, are) scuffed and worn from frequent use.
- Either a coyote or some neighborhood dogs (have, has) passed this way.



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Complete It

Complete each sentence below with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Boston cream pie (to be) _____ the official dessert of the state of Massachusetts.
2. Fort Knox, located in Kentucky, (hold) _____ most of the gold that the U.S. federal government owns.
3. Both Maine and Massachusetts (claim) _____ the chickadee as their state bird.
4. Neither New Mexico nor Arizona (have) _____ any ocean coastline.
5. Alligators (live) _____ in many bodies of water throughout the state of Florida, which is why they are Florida's state reptile.
6. The world's oldest living things, a stand of bristlecone pine trees, (make) _____ their home in California.
7. America's longest Main Street (run) _____ through Island Park, Idaho.
8. Four states, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and New Mexico, (have) _____ the word *new* in their names.
9. Either Hawaii or Vermont (to be) _____ known as the healthiest state to live in.
10. Idaho (grow) _____ more potatoes than any other state.

Try It

Write a paragraph about states you have visited or would like to visit. Circle each verb you use, and underline the subject it agrees with.
