

A Talking to the government



Fill-in the blank spaces with suitable phrases (a-r) below :

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| a. at present | j. changed for the better |
| b. whatever they do | k. keep in touch |
| c. in many cases | l. with regards to |
| d. under discussion | m. on the streets |
| e. in general | n. for consideration |
| f. in common | o. in their way |
| g. be smaller in size | p. on hand |
| h. in charge | q. at first hand |
| i. in the first place | r. at risk of |

A group of homeless people, some of whom are (1) sleeping (2) , have visited a government office to give the minister responsible the opportunity to learn (3) the issue they face. Topics (4) at the meeting included looking at how services for rough sleepers could be (5) , and how homeless could be avoided (6) Among the recommendations (7) were: that local authorities could provide a helpline for those (8) eviction; that (9) those rehoused people who had experience (10) of sleeping rough could be housed close together so they could still (11) ; that local authorities and government agencies could in general cut down the bureaucratic obstacles that homeless people find (12) , obstacles which frustrate them (13) when they are trying to get off the streets and into accommodation; that hostels for the homeless could (14) , and could be better planned (15) the needs of individuals; and that there should be help (16) in hospitals for homeless people who are (17) simply returned to the streets after medical treatment. The minister (18) assured the visitors that their views would be seriously considered.

B Fred's Story



Complete this text using these prepositions.

across along at by into of past towards under with

Whenever I see a newspaper lying on the ground beside a door, I think of Fred. A few years ago, Fred had to travel to a meeting and his flight was delayed for several hours because of bad weather. (1) _____ the time he got to his hotel it was (2) _____ midnight. Once in his room, he felt really tired so he just undressed and got into bed. (3) _____ some point during the night, he had to get up and get to the bathroom. He wasn't really awake and it was very dark, but he could see a light (4) _____ the bathroom door, so he walked (5) _____ the light. He opened the bathroom door and went in. The bright light blinded him for a moment. As the door closed behind him, he vaguely wondered why there was a doormat on the bathroom floor. Facing him was another door (6) _____ a number on it. It was number 325. That was strange. Then he realized that he wasn't in the bathroom. He was in the corridor. What was he going to do? Then he noticed a newspaper on the floor beside the door (8) _____ number 325. He quickly grabbed the newspaper and held it in front of him as a man and a woman in dark uniforms came (9) _____ the corridor towards him. The man said, 'Good morning, sir. Having a bit of trouble?' They were security guards. Fred explained his embarrassing situation and they unlocked the door for him. He thanked them as if they had just saved his life. After they left, he opened his door, made sure it wouldn't close again, stepped (10) _____ the corridor and put the newspaper back on the floor outside number 325. Someone else might need that newspaper.

Make your VERB agree with your SUBJECT. HERE ARE SOME RULES.

Rule 1
The subject of a sentence or clause must agree in number with the main or auxiliary verb of that sentence or clause.

example

- The **books** were on the table yesterday.
- **Whatever** you want to do is fine with me.
- **Every book** is checked out.
- **One** of the books is missing.

Rule 2

With fractions, percentages, amounts and distances a singular verb is used when they are not followed by an "of" phrase.

example

- **Five miles** is an average distance for men to run.
- **\$7.50** is the minimum wage.

Rule 3

When an "of" phrase follows a percentage, distance, fraction, or amount, the verb agrees with the noun closest to the verb.

example

- **Half of the tables** are occupied.
- **21% of the population** is poor.

Rule 4

With indefinite quantifiers (e.g. all, few, many, much, some), the verb agrees with the preceding noun or clause.

example

- a. With a singular or non-count noun or clause, use a singular verb :
 - **Much of the book** seems relevant to his study.
 - **All the information** is current.
- b. With a plural noun, use a plural verb :
 - **Many researchers** depend on grants from industry.
 - **All the studies** are current.

Rule 5

Usually, a singular verb follows NONE, even if the noun following it is plural. However, in conversational English, a plural noun has become acceptable.

example

- **None of the workers** receives a tip.
- None of the workers receive a tip. (less formal)

Rule 6

With a collective noun, use either a singular or a plural verb, depending on whether you want to emphasize the single group or its individual members.

example

- **Half of my family** lives/live in Canada.
- **All of the class** is/are here.

D Time for Dialogue



Compleat the dialogue with the words in the box.

announcement /advertisement rare/strange sensible/sensitive nervous/angry control/check take/bring news/notice

Tonmoy : Have you seen the **advertisement** for a ghost story competition ? There's (1) in the library about it.

Lira : Really ? What do you have to do ?

Tonmoy : It's easy. Just write a story and send it off to Spook magazine. If you win, you get an X-Files DVD.

Lira : But I haven't got a DVD player.

Tonmoy : Don't worry. If you win, you can (2) it to my house. We can watch it on my computer.

Lira : But, I don't really believe in supernatural experiences - I'm too (3) I could invent something, I suppose. When do you have to send the story off ?

Tonmoy : I'm not sure. I'll have to (4) the date on the poster.

Lira : Are you going to enter ?

Tonmoy : Definitely! I had a really (5) experience last year. It was pretty scary and I get (6) just thinking about it.

Lira : So what happened ?

G Complete the conversations with suitable verbs in the continuous infinitive. One example is done for you :

- A : Do you know where Ben is ?
B : I'm not sure. He **may be playing** games on the computer.
- A : Where's Brijit ?
B : She's upstairs. She must to music in her room.
- A : I can't find the thing that changes TV channel.
B : The remote control ? Stand up. You could on it.
- A : Have you seen the newspaper ?
B : I think James picked it up. He may it.
- A : What is that noise ?
B : It sounds like an ambulance. They must someone to hospital.
- A : Look over there! It's Kate and Alex.
B : She can't his hand. She doesn't like him.
A : They must out together. I don't believe it!
- A : What's happening outside ?
B : It sounds like workmen. They must up the road outside.
- A : What for ?
B : I don't know. They could a broken water pipe.



example

- a. They take a singular verb when referring to a single quantifier :
 - **The number of students registered in the class** is 20.
- b. They take plural verbs when they are used as indefinite quantifiers :
 - **A number of students** were late.

Rule 9

With expressions like AS WELL AS, IN ADDITION TO, TOGETHER WITH, the first noun determines if the verb is singular or plural.

example

- **France as well as other European countries** has a tip included policy.
- **Waiters, in addition to others who work for tip**, are usually generous tippers.

Rule 10

In the subjects with NEITHER/NOR and NOT ONLY BUT ALSO the noun closest to the verb determines if that verb is singular or plural.

example

- **Neither the host nor the guests** were happy.
- **Neither the guests nor the host** is/was happy.
- **Not only the waiter but also the cook and busboy** work for tips.

Rule 11

With EITHER OR/OR, the second noun determines that the verb is plural.

example

- **Either John or his brother** is going to make dinner.

Rule 12

A plural verb is used with subjects using BOTH/AND. However, if the compound subject describes two part of a single process, then a singular verb is used.

example

- **Both John and his sister** are going to be at the party.
- **Carol and Bob** were at the party.
- **The administration and interpretation of education tests** is an important part of her job.

E Complete the text with a, an or the or no article in the spaces.



What is a jury ?

(1) jury is (2) group of (3) people who attend (4) court hearing, consider (5) evidence presented and then decide whether (6) defendant is (7) guilty or not guilty. (8) jury trial usually involves (9) more serious criminal cases. (10) members of (11) jury are known as jurors. Jurors do not have legal training. In (12) U.K, jury members are selected from (13) electoral register and represent (14) cross-section of (15) society.

H Time for Preposition : Revision Test

Complete the sentences with a preposition :

- Thailand is famous its temples and beaches.
- I have all the reasons to be angry you.
- Are you any good with maths ? I'm hopeless.
- Jenny's is getting married Mat. Did you know ?
- My sister is very different me. I'm blonde but she's brunnete.
- I haven't heard my brother for ages. I'm a bit worried about him.
- I'm tired painting this wall. I need a break.
- I feel very sorry Jenny. She has failed in the last English test.
- Teenagers are often rude their parents.
- You passed your exam. I'm so proud you.
- Some children like to keep a light on at night because they are afraid the dark.
- Many dentists say that chewing sugar-free gum is good your teeth.
- Bill is good-looking, witty and charming. I'm very jealous him.
- That wasn't very kind you.
- Are you interested going to the cinema tonight ? There's a good film on.
- His email was full spelling mistakes. He should be more careful when he types.
- What are you excited ?
- Are you sure this ?
- When you leave home, you're responsible everything!
- I'm fed up this weather! Where is the sunshine gone ?

Find the answers in next Monday issue

C ARE YOU READY FOR A SV AGREEMENT QUIZ?

Circle the correct verb in each of the sentences below:

- Your friend (talks / talk) too much
- The man with the roses (look / looks) like your brother.
- The women in the pool (swim / swims) well.
- Bill and his brother (live / lives) with their parents.
- Everybody (was / were) asked to remain quiet.
- Most of the news (is / are) good.
- All of the milk (is / are) gone.
- Either Joyce or Ellen (was / were) here.
- A magazine and a book (is / are) lying on the floor.
- Half of the flats (is / are) vacant.

F Complete the text by writing a phrase from the box in each space.



had to wait . needn't have bothered . are only able to . has to monitor. should this be allowed . don't have to be . must not violate . are able to watch . have to think again . should we be . should watch

Big Brother is Watching You

Whereas once the police (1) before someone reported a crime to them, nowadays CCTV operators (2) crimes as they happen. There are almost three million CCTV cameras in Britain, and you (3) the owner of a security company to know that it is a growth business. But does CCTV work? Some experts believe that we (4) to install so many cameras, as they only reduce a small percentage of crimes - mainly against property. There may be millions of cameras, but in order to make CCTV effective, somebody (5) what is happening on the screens. Skilled operators (6) all the screens all the time, but reality, most operators (7) watch one screen with concentration for about 20 minutes. When the system is not being used for a particular purpose, in co-ordination with a police operation for example, (8) worried that we are all being watched for no reason ?



ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2014)

A KEY: at // for // to // because of // about // out // on // for // on // to // with
B KEY: (1) biography (2) editorials (3) reviews (4) fiction (5) version (6) translations (7) plot (8) metaphors
C KEY: (1) much (2) few (3) little (4) only (5) many (6) enough (7) many (8) number (9) lot (10) hardly
D KEY: (1) much (2) few (3) number (4) enough/any (5) few (6) much/a lot of (7) number (8) little
E KEY: (1) poor (2) magic (3) angry (4) large (5) new (6) comfortable (7) patiently (8) slowly (9) immediately (10) angrily
F KEY: (1) towards (2) over (3) on (4) through (5) along (6) from (7) into (8) towards
G KEY: (1) only (2) earlier (3) yet (4) acutely (5) pleased (6) young (7) Japanese (8) coloured (9) certainly (10) far
H KEY : 1. A habit that nearly ruined my school career was studying at the last minute.
2. My mother, who was a strict disciplinarian, put me on a study schedule from the first day of each year.
3. However, the promises which I made to my mother were undermined by my passion for fantasy novels.
4. My favourite stories, whose authors wove wonderful dreams, enticed me away from my textbooks.
5. The crazy cramming, which I did just before examinations, was somehow sufficient to get me through lower secondary school.
6. The disaster which/ that cured me of 11th -hour marathons came at upper secondary level.
I KEY: (1) feel/believe (2) use/employ (3) hang/stroll (4) waste (5) are (6) hang (7) make (8) are (9) think/believe (10) is (11) do (12) do (13) is (14) wish (15) have (16) want (17) have (18) is
J KEY: (1) The writer bought it because it was in a miserable condition and it was without its mother.
(2) She not only bought it but also christened it with the name Topsy.
(3) The writer thought that Topsy might take positive interest in something non-human.
(4) She took positive interest in the teddy bear and soon started playing up with it.