

# MAKE YOUR SUBJECT AGREE WITH ITS VERB

**1** If the subject is singular (one person, one thing), the verb must be singular.

**Ex.** A good student does his homework.\*  
\* In the present tense a singular verb ends with an s.

**2** If the subject is plural (more than one person or thing), the verb must be plural.

**Ex.** All good students do their homework.\*  
\* Notice that the verb do does not have an s.

### PRACTICE EXERCISE A :

Underline the correct verb form (singular or plural).



1. The student (works, work).
2. He (studies, study) too.
3. All the students (walks, walk) to school.
4. These pictures (was, were) drawn by the instructor.
5. Children (wants, want) their parents to go to school

**3** If words or phrases come between the subject and the verb, first isolate the subject and then decide on the correct verb form. Prepositional phrases can be real trouble makers, so be careful !



**Ex.** The designs on Indian pottery (fascinates, fascinate) me.  
(The subject, designs, is plural; therefore, the verb must be plural. The plural verb is fascinate.)

### PRACTICE EXERCISE B :

In each of the following sentences, underline the subject and the verb.

1. The buildings on each campus (was, were) recently completed.
2. All applications for the job (has, have) been received.
3. Every student in all classes (has, have) been notified of the test date.
4. The chalkboards in the school (is, are) scratched.
5. Each year the winner from all the schools throughout the state (seems, seem) to be surprised.

**4** Some words that are often used as subjects are always singular. Memorize them!! (each, one, either, neither, no one, everyone, anyone, someone, anybody, somebody, everybody, nobody, everything.)

**Ex.** Everybody wants to make good grades.  
Some words that are often used as subjects are always plural. Memorize them!!  
(Several, few, both, many)

**Ex.** Several of the staff understand the idea of an attendance policy.

Some words may be either singular or plural, depending on how they are used.  
(some, any, all, most)

**Ex.** Some of the fruit is rotten. (Some fruit is rotten.)  
Some of the apples are rotten. (Some apples are rotten.)  
All of this apple is rotten. (The entire apple is rotten.)  
All of these apples are rotten. (All apples are rotten.)

### PRACTICE EXERCISE C :

Underline the correct form of the verb



**5** If the sentence has compound subjects (more than one subject) joined by and, the verb is usually plural.



**Ex.** Anik and Abir are twins.  
The beginning of the story (and) the end of the story were exciting.

**6** When compound subjects are joined by or or nor, the verb must agree with the nearer subject.

**Ex.** Either the old men or the young man was responsible for the lovely music.  
Neither the teacher nor the students are in class this morning.



### PRACTICE EXERCISE D :

**7** When a sentence begins with either there or here, the subject comes behind the verb.



1. Some of the students (has, have) left the building.
2. Each of her students ( is, are) special.
3. Several on the team (hits, hit) the ball really hard.
4. Everything in the buildings (was, were) destroyed.
5. Neither of the men (meets, meet) his class every day.

Underline the correct form of the verb.

1. Neither science nor math (gives, give) me a problem.
2. Either the cat or the dogs (greet, greet) me at the door.
3. Neither the men who are listed as administrators nor the woman who is also listed (has, have) been appointed to the board.
4. Either my cousin or my uncle (was, were) on the critical list.
5. Neither Ms. Jessica nor a member of her staff (is, are) going to attend the meeting.

**7** When a sentence begins with either there or here, the subject comes behind the verb.

**Ex.** There is going to be just one student representative on the board.

### REVIEW OF SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Directions: Some of the verbs in the following sentences agree with their subject(s); some do not. If the verb does not agree with the subject, underline it and write the correct form above it.

**Ex.** Each of the students takes the bus.

1. Dr. Jolly and her mother teaches music.
2. Neither Dr. Jolly nor her mother know how to boil water.
3. There is the list of courses that you were looking for.
4. Either you or your sister have to take notes on the lecture.
5. Both the instructors and the students has left for the day.

### Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

### ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015)

- Key 2.**  
I. The work was physically hard; the pay was poor; and, most of all, the working conditions were dismal.  
II. Physical hardship  
A. Required strength and energy  
B. Work load  
1. Lift cartons weighing twelve tons  
2. Do the work of two men  
III. Poor pay  
IV. Bad working conditions  
V. Hated the difficulty of the work, the poor money, and the conditions under which I worked.  
**Key 3.**  
a. S b. M c. S d. S e. M f. S g. S h. S i. S j. T k. S l. C m. M  
**Key 4.**  
I. Practising yoga regularly can be good for your mind, your body, and your emotions.  
II. Mental benefits  
A. Develops clear thinking  
B. Improves concentration  
III. Physical benefits  
A. Improves blood circulation  
B. Improves digestion  
C. Makes you strong and flexible  
IV. Emotional benefits  
A. Reduces fear, anger, and worry  
B. Helps you feel calm and peaceful  
C. Develops self-confidence  
V. Therefore, to build mental, physical, and emotional health, consider practising yoga.

**THE FOLLOWINGS ARE PART OF THE KEY. THE REST OF IT WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK.**

### TEST YOUR READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY

Marcia says that all of her friends have a cell phone, but Marcia's mom doesn't want to buy her one. Marcia's mom doesn't want Marcia to play video games either. What is more, the Internet scares her. Marcia's mom says, "If Marcia has a cell phone, how do we know whom she is talking to? Video games are bad for you. The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled. It's like having a gun in the house. We should just ban her from using the computer, and I'm not buying her a cell phone until she is eighteen. This is the only way we can be sure that Marcia is safe."

Marcia's dad disagrees with Marcia's mom. Although he agrees that there are some dangers to it, he likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful. "The trouble is," he says, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage. What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control. Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone. We can't take these things away."

### Answer ALL the questions :

- 1) Which of the following best describes the difference between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad? [2]  
A. Mom wants to ban Marcia from using the computer, while dad likes to play video games.  
B. Mom thinks technology is dangerous, while dad thinks it can be useful.  
C. Mom cares little about Marcia's future, while dad is very supportive.  
D. Mom is very strict while Dad is open minded.
- 2) Which of the following best describes the similarity between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad? [2]  
A. Mom and dad both like technology.  
B. Mom and dad both think video games are bad.  
C. Mom and dad both think the internet is dangerous.  
D. Mom and dad both care about Marcia's wellbeing.
- 3) In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom says, "It's like having a gun in the house." She says this in order to [2]  
A. support the idea that the Internet is dangerous  
B. reject the claim that guns can be safe if used responsibly  
C. encourage Marcia's dad to purchase a gun  
D. explain why the Internet is uncontrolled
- 4) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage." What does Marcia's dad mean by this? [1]  
A. Marcia needs to learn how to use the internet if she wants to have friends in the future.  
B. Marcia should not stop using the internet because this will seriously slow her learning.  
C. If a person's ability to use the internet becomes important in the future, Marcia will be at a loss.  
D. If Marcia does not learn to use the internet on her own, then she will never learn to recognize its dangers.
- 5) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone." What is the best reason Marcia's dad can provide to convince Marcia's mom that Marcia needs a cell phone? [1]  
A. Marcia can use her cell phone to talk to her friends, instead of needing to borrow one of ours.  
B. Having a cell phone will teach Marcia how to use new technology.  
C. Because all of her friends have one, it would be unfair to disallow Marcia to have a cell phone.  
D. If Marcia's is in trouble she can use her cell phone to call for help.
- 6) Which of the following describes a level of game play that Marcia's dad would disapprove of? [1]  
A. On Saturday, Marcia plays video games all evening. The next day, she wakes up early and goes for a walk through the woods near her house. When her friend calls Marcia, they talk about what they are going to wear to school on Monday.  
B. Marcia plays video games for an hour or two. Then she eats lunch and meets her friends at the skating rink. That night, Marcia and her friends go to see a movie.  
C. Marcia plays video games all morning. When her friends ask her to come play outside, Marcia tells them that she is too busy and continues to play.  
D. Marcia plays video games for an hour every day for five days straight. During these days, she does not watch any TV.
- 7) Marcia's mom can best be described as [2]  
A. ridiculous B. careful C. cruel D. rude
- 8) Marcia's dad can best be described as [2]  
A. shameless B. foolish C. wild D. reasonable
- 9) Which of the following would be the best way for Marcia to change the way her mom thinks about technology? [2]  
A. Read her a newspaper article that talks about the importance of technology.  
B. Provide her an instruction manual detailing how the latest cell phone functions.  
C. Take her to the library and show her the top five most popular internet websites.  
D. Spend the weekend playing video games with her.

- 9) Write three advantages and two disadvantages of using a cell phone from your knowledge and experience. Write only FIVE sentences in all. [5]  
**THREE ADVANTAGES OF USING CELL PHONE**  
1. .... 2. ....  
3. ....  
**TWO DISADVANTAGES OF USING CELL PHONE**  
1. .... 2. ....  
What is your score out of 20 ? I have scored .....