

25.1 Subject and Verb Agreement (Confusing Subjects) • Practice 1

Confusing Subjects Always check certain kinds of subjects carefully to make sure they agree with their verbs.

AGREEMENT WITH CONFUSING SUBJECTS	
Subject After Verb	In the middle of the second act <i>appear</i> two <i>elves</i> . Beyond the pasture <i>lies</i> a dense <i>forest</i> .
Subject Versus Predicate Nominative	These two <i>socks are</i> a pair. A <i>pair</i> is two objects of the same kind.
Collective Nouns	The <i>family makes</i> decisions together. (as a group) The <i>family share</i> their feelings. (as individuals)
Plural Form with Singular Meaning	<i>Mumps was</i> once a common illness. <i>Sports is</i> the only thing I ever watch on television.
Amounts	Two <i>weeks is</i> never enough vacation. Three <i>cups of sugar is</i> a lot for that recipe.
Titles	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> is a classic novel.
Indefinite Pronouns	<i>One of the cups is</i> missing. (always singular) <i>Both of the cups are</i> missing. (always plural) <i>Some of the soup is</i> still simmering. <i>Some of the cookies have</i> been eaten.

Exercise 1 **Deciding on the Number of Subjects.** Assume that each item below is to be the subject of a sentence. Label each one *S* if it needs a singular verb or *P* if it needs a plural verb.

EXAMPLE: *All the King's Men* S

- Some of the students _____
- Econometrics _____
- Aesop's *Fables* _____
- Half of the students _____
- German measles _____
- Each of the men _____
- Pride and Prejudice* _____
- Six months _____
- Both of the cars _____
- All of the pie _____

Exercise 2 **Choosing Verbs to Agree With Difficult Subjects.** Write the correct verb form from parentheses to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Here are the books you ordered. (is, are)

- The news on the front page _____ often distressing. (is, are)
- The committee sometimes _____ among themselves. (disagree, disagrees)
- High winds _____ a major threat to coastal property. (is, are)
- Half of the students _____ chicken pox. (has, have)
- The whole group _____ the same schedule. (follow, follows)