

Chapter 8: Agreement, pp. 152–78

Choices: Examining Agreement, p. 152

Choices activities are designed to extend and enrich students' understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics and to take learners beyond traditional classroom instruction. To use the Choices worksheet, have each student pick an activity that interests him or her. In some cases, you may wish to assign an activity to a particular student or group of students. You may also want to request that students get your approval for the activities they choose. Establish guidelines for what constitutes successful completion of an activity. Then, help students plan how they will share their work with the rest of the class.

Choices activities can be scored with a pass-fail grade or treated as bonus-point projects. Those activities that require students to research or create a certain number of items might be graded in a traditional manner.

Subject-Verb Agreement A, p. 153

EXERCISE A

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. cases—P | 11. feet—P |
| 2. us—P | 12. she—S |
| 3. clock—S | 13. few—P |
| 4. book—S | 14. spoons—P |
| 5. pencil—S | 15. pin—S |
| 6. stereos—P | 16. lemon—S |
| 7. them—P | 17. plate—S |
| 8. wish—S | 18. tribes—P |
| 9. mice—P | 19. shelves—P |
| 10. knuckle—S | 20. yam—S |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 21. persons [<i>or</i> people] | 26. hawks |
| 22. dentists | 27. actors |
| 23. cups | 28. cows |
| 24. audiences | 29. scientists |
| 25. reporters | 30. potatoes |

Subject-Verb Agreement B, p. 154

EXERCISE A

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. likes | 6. starts |
| 2. enjoy | 7. prefers |
| 3. was | 8. are |
| 4. has | 9. ask |
| 5. Is | 10. is |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 11. has | 14. have |
| 12. is | 15. does |
| 13. Does | |

Subject-Verb Agreement C, p. 155

EXERCISE A

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. carry | 6. declares |
| 2. includes | 7. is |
| 3. make | 8. were |
| 4. is | 9. were |
| 5. draws | 10. echoes |

EXERCISE B

- The students in my karate class (watch, watches) carefully whenever the instructor demonstrates a move.
- The jar of lima beans (was, were) stored in the coolest section of the cellar.
- The birthday cards that I received this year (is, are) mostly from out of town.
- The two men who both work the third shift at the police department, (sleep, sleeps) during the day.
- The judges on the panel (decide, decides) which skaters will continue to the semifinals.

Subject-Verb Agreement D, p. 156

EXERCISE

- Something about the candidate's answers (has, have) been bothering me ever since the debate.

2. **Both** of the dogs (*has, have*) already been treated for heartworm.
3. **All** of the stuff in the attic (*need, needs*) to be dusted before the yard sale.
4. **Neither** of the movies (*is, are*) very good.
5. (*Have, Has*) not **several** of these dogs already won awards?
6. **Everybody** who is registered for the class (*read, reads*) the same books.
7. **No one** in the play (*was, were*) prepared for the overwhelming response of the audience on opening night.
8. (*Is, Are*) **any** of the dough ready to be baked?
9. The director is pleased that **more** of the singers (*have, has*) memorized the score for this rehearsal than for the last rehearsal.
10. **Somebody** among the reporters covering the trial (*is, are*) getting inside information from the district attorney.

Subject-Verb Agreement E, p. 157

EXERCISE

1. **Few** of the world's sharks (*grows, grow*) to be sixty feet long.
2. **One** of the most interesting sharks (*is, are*) the whale shark.
3. **Each** of a whale shark's eggs (*is, are*) quite large.
4. "(*Has, Have*) **anyone** here ever seen a whale shark's egg?" asked the tour guide.
5. **None** of the sharks (*swims, swim*) toward the visitors.
6. **Some** of the other sea creatures (*is, are*) frightening, too.
7. **Many** of the visitors (*screams, scream*).
8. **Few** of us (*has, have*) seen a giant jellyfish before.

9. **Several** of the park's divers (*follows, follow*) a manta ray.
10. **Everyone** in our class (*seems, seem*) to be having a good time at the ocean park.

Subject-Verb Agreement F, p. 158

EXERCISE

1. **Plants** and **flowers** (*is, are*) featured on the cover of this book about Carver's life.
2. The **author** and **illustrator** of the book (*is, are*) the same person.
3. According to the book, **grief** and **sorrow** (*was, were*) part of Carver's early life.
4. Neither his **mother** nor his **father** (*was, were*) alive to raise Carver.
5. At the time, **slaveholding** and **slave trading** (*was, were*) widespread.
6. Neither **Carver** nor many other **African Americans** (*was, were*) able to find a college that would enroll them.
7. Neither the large **universities** nor the local **college** (*was, were*) accepting applications from African Americans.
8. Just **laws** and the strict **enforcement** of them (*was, were*) needed.
9. Also described in the book (*is, are*) Carver's **experiments** and **discoveries**.
10. An innovative **educator** and **scientist** (*was, were*) George Washington Carver.

Subject-Verb Agreement G, p. 159

EXERCISE A

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1. are | 6. Do |
| 2. are | 7. were |
| 3. Have | 8. are |
| 4. There is | 9. do |
| 5. is | 10. are |

EXERCISE B

11. (*Are, Is*) your little brother a finalist in the state gymnastics tournament?
12. (*There's, There are*) over forty species of birds that pass through my backyard.
13. How (*do, does*) bees make honey?
14. Here (*lie, lies*) the ruins of the colony.
15. When (*is, are*) your cousins from Guatemala coming to visit?
16. (*Do, Does*) anyone here have change for a twenty-dollar bill?
17. There (*was, were*) no excuses for what Dudley had done.
18. What (*do, does*) the Andersons want to know about the school system?
19. (*Has, Have*) someone told you the rules of our game?
20. Here (*is, are*) Amy and her sisters!

Subject-Verb Agreement H, p. 160**EXERCISE A**

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. don't | 6. don't |
| 2. don't | 7. Doesn't |
| 3. Don't | 8. doesn't |
| 4. don't | 9. doesn't |
| 5. doesn't | 10. Doesn't |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 11. doesn't | 16. Don't |
| 12. Doesn't | 17. doesn't |
| 13. doesn't | 18. doesn't |
| 14. doesn't | 19. doesn't |
| 15. don't | 20. doesn't |

Subject-Verb Agreement I, p. 161**EXERCISE A**

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. practice | 6. applauds |
| 2. travels | 7. lift |
| 3. decides | 8. clean |
| 4. grazes | 9. have |
| 5. holds | 10. are |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 11. bicker | 14. greets |
| 12. have | 15. discuss |
| 13. present | |

Subject-Verb Agreement J, p. 162**EXERCISE A**

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1. was | 6. feels [<i>or feel</i>] |
| 2. is | 7. is |
| 3. were | 8. were |
| 4. seems | 9. have |
| 5. were | 10. is |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 11. were | 14. slip |
| 12. is | 15. was |
| 13. Is | |

Subject-Verb Agreement K, p. 163**EXERCISE A**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. is | 6. is |
| 2. is | 7. is |
| 3. is | 8. awards |
| 4. Is | 9. stars |
| 5. seems | 10. feels |

EXERCISE B

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 11. are | 14. is |
| 12. are | 15. Are |
| 13. is | |

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement A, p. 164**EXERCISE**

Some answers may vary.

1. Mary Ellen took her dog for a walk after dinner.
2. One of the men bent to pick up his tools.

3. Somebody left his or her books on the lawn last night.
4. Sean said that he was too tired to come with us to the movies.
5. Out of sheer boredom, the cat chased its own tail.
6. Stanley went up to his room to do the homework assignment.
7. Miranda hung the diploma on the wall of her bedroom.
8. Each of the girls on the soccer team received her own jersey yesterday.
9. As the sun set, the mountain cast its shadow across the desert.
10. Pick up the frying pan and bring it to me, please.
11. We stayed awake to watch the film until it was over.
12. If your sister gets here after I leave, tell her I left a casserole in the fridge.
13. Neither of the boys remembered where his baseball glove was.
14. That afternoon Uncle Oliver told us stories about his experiences in Vietnam.
15. Either of the men is willing to tell you what he saw at the accident scene.
16. Emily Dickinson often gave her poems away as gifts to neighbors.
17. Everybody at the office put flowers in his or her cubicle.
18. The author of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* changed his name from Samuel Clemens to Mark Twain.

19. Each of the nuns lifted her hand to make the sign of the cross.
20. Someone hung his or her wet towel over the shower curtain.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement B, p. 165

EXERCISE A

1. When we're playing tennis, my brother and I never let the other players intimidate us.
2. Either Jason or Raul will bring his tool kit to the bicycle race.
3. Brenda and Caitlin told us that they didn't plan to come to the party.
4. If either Brittany or Celine wants to be a successful writer, she will need to work hard.
5. Leora and Annette pooled their resources to buy a birthday present for Jim.
6. Please ask Glendon and Maria if their science fair project is ready yet.
7. Did Lauryn or Marian say if she was going to the mock trial?
8. Karen and I discussed our difference of opinion quite calmly.
9. Frank and Tina would like the class to help them set up their display.
10. Let Kathryn and Michael know in advance if they should bring a dish to the party.

EXERCISE B

11. Julio and Spike have brought all of his ^{their} CDs to the dance.
12. Neither Faith nor Deanna knew where her ^{their} bicycle was.
13. Is Melissa or Martina sure they ^{she} won't join us?
14. Let's ask Antonia and Belle if she ^{they} read the article about comets.

15. Does Dutch or Pike have ~~their~~^{his} notebook with him?

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement C, p. 166

EXERCISE

1. Some of the CDs have lost ~~its~~^{their} jewel cases.
2. Few of the women's soccer team enjoyed ~~her~~^{their} stay in Helsinki.
3. Either of the brothers is willing to bring ~~their~~^{his} baseball glove to the game.
4. Hasn't anybody announced ~~their~~^{his or her} intentions yet?
5. Many of the reporters do ~~his or her~~^{their} own research.
6. All of the rosebushes in the garden have thorns on ~~it~~^{them}.
7. Everyone in the class is aware of ~~their~~^{his or her} responsibility to bring a note from home.
8. Someone on the swimming team left ~~their~~^{his or her} goggles by the side of the pool.
9. Several of the boys joined the military after ~~he~~^{they} graduated from high school.
10. Some of the people in the audience got the joke, and ~~it~~^{they} laughed heartily.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement D, p. 167

EXERCISE

1. Each of my sisters has her own pogo stick.
2. None of the employees should reveal their password to anyone.
3. Everything the teacher said made sense the moment he said it.
4. Both of the astronomical calendars have the same nebula on their covers.
5. Several of the police officers spent their holidays volunteering at the new community center.

6. If you have anything to say during the debate, please say it as succinctly as possible.
7. Neither of my grandmothers has ever revealed her secret for making jambalaya.
8. More of the palm trees have been planted this year because they look so striking along the beach.
9. One of the male interns put his clipboard down to pick up the baby.
10. Most of the radio program was written by Marta, but a few minutes of it were written by Tish.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement E, p. 168

EXERCISE A

Some answers may vary.

1. The thundering herd left a wide swath of flattened grass in its, their wake.
2. As the team entered the lobby, the fans began to ask for its, their autographs.
3. After debating all of its, their options, the President's commission issued its report.
4. The readership of the newspaper were not shy about making its, their opinions known.
5. The jury could not agree among itself, themselves what to order for lunch.
6. During the intermission, the ensemble tuned its, their instruments.
7. The majority of the class took its, their work home that night.
8. The Fantasy Society voted *The Lord of the Rings* its, their choice for Book of the Century.

9. The cast of the play took (*its, their*) curtain calls one at a time.
10. The crowd voted with (*its, their*) feet and left the debate early.

EXERCISE B

11. The troupe of actors looked good in their costumes.
12. The entire staff lined up in the parking lot to have its picture taken.
13. The committee cannot even agree among themselves.
14. After a fierce battle, the platoon took its position at the top of the ridge.
15. After winning, the team posed for photographs with their [or its] ecstatic fans.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement F, p. 169

EXERCISE A

1. If I make fifty dollars from the carwash this weekend, I can use (*it, them*) to put a down payment on a bicycle.
2. After Luther oiled the shears, (*it, they*) were ready to use again.
3. Michiko poured the molasses and watched (*it, them*) cover the bottom of the pan.
4. Now that you've heard the news, do you think (*it, they*) will affect how you vote?
5. If you want to go to the Olympics, you have to train for (*it, them*).
6. Sue had three dollars in her wallet, but now one of (*it, them*) is missing.
7. Vera dropped the pliers in the grass and then spent an hour looking for (*it, them*).
8. Mathematics was more than an interest for Leora; (*it, they*) became a passion.

9. Roxanne decided not to wear her shorts because (*it, they*) had become threadbare.
10. He had only seventy-five cents; would (*it, they*) be enough to pay for the juice?

EXERCISE B

11. Francesca decided to take civics because she could fit ~~it~~ ^{them} into her schedule.
12. Malik has lost his eyeglasses; he needs ~~it~~ ^{them} for basketball.
13. Take the binoculars out of ~~its~~ ^{their} case, please.
14. Did you hear the news? Could ~~they~~ ^{it} be any worse?
15. Of all the pants you could have worn, ~~that~~ ^{those} could be the worst.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement G, p. 170

EXERCISE

1. Discount Appliances used to be located on Burnet Avenue; ~~they~~ ^{it} stood where a beautiful orchard used to grow.
2. C
3. After Tranh was assigned to read *Great Expectations*, the Charles Dickens masterpiece, he managed to finish ~~them~~ ^{it} over the weekend.
4. C
5. The Sons of the Desert, devoted to the comic films of Laurel and Hardy, was founded in 1964, and my grandfather has been a member of ~~them~~ ^{it} since 1967.
6. After I read "Flowers for Algernon," I found out that Hollywood has adapted ~~them~~ ^{it} for the movies twice.
7. As you read T. S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men," consider the effect of ~~them~~ ^{it} on your imagination.

8. Jacques Offenbach never completed his opera *The Tales of Hoffmann*; Ernest Guiraud finished ~~them~~^{it} after Offenbach's death.
9. When you come to the Narrows, where so many ships have gone down, go around ~~them~~^{it}.
10. C

Review A: Subject-Verb Agreement, p. 171

EXERCISE A

1. My shoes and my shirt ~~lies~~^{lie} at the end of the bed.
2. Either Dr. Chen or Dr. Montoya ~~plan~~^{plans} to perform the operation.
3. ~~Don't~~^{Does} someone who has read the books have something to say?
4. C—flock have
5. C—Afternoons are
6. The officers of the Forest Service ~~does~~^{do} approve of campfires during a drought.
7. C—Gymnastics electronics is
8. C—students are
9. Most of the horses ~~grazes~~^{graze} in the upper pasture during the summertime.
10. Both of the flute players ~~hopes~~^{hope} to audition for the first chair in the orchestra.

EXERCISE B

11. Neither Jay nor Sonya (is, are) going to the folk festival this year.
12. Each of the children (has, have) gone to bed by now.
13. Anyone who listens to the singer's music (has, have) to get up and dance.
14. Our cat Conrad and our dog Padgett (like, likes) to sleep on the bed.
15. Katherine told me that the League of

Women Voters (is, are) sponsoring a debate between the two candidates this Wednesday.

16. All of my aunts and uncles (remember, remembers) when my grandmother's birthday is.
17. (Doesn't, Don't) most people in our town recycle their bottles and cans?
18. Either of the girls (is, are) happy to help you rake your lawn.
19. When (is, are) the football team scheduled to play Reed City?
20. Enrique told me that he (don't, doesn't) care for okra.

Review B: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement, p. 172

EXERCISE A

1. Many of the science fair contestants have brought ~~his or her~~^{their} own equipment.
2. One of the girls has gotten mud all over ~~their~~^{her} shoes.
3. Every member of the class brought ~~their~~^{his or her} own pencil to the test on Friday.
4. Either Sergio or Michael will need to bring ~~their~~^{his} boombox to the party.
5. No one in the family remembered to bring ~~their~~^{his or her} key to the cabin by the lake.
6. Aren't all of your uncles taking a fishing pole with ~~him~~^{them} on vacation?
7. A few of the students told ~~his or her~~^{their} parents about the pop quiz on Friday.
8. Each of the kittens cried for ~~their~~^{its} mother.
9. One of the young women was certain that the award for Best Class Song was going to ~~her~~^{them}.
10. Some of the books showed Princess Diana on ~~its~~^{their} covers.

EXERCISE B

- The Barretts of Wimpole Street is my mother's favorite film; she has seen (it, them) several times.
- The cast of the play decided to have a party after (its, their) last performance.
- One of the ships was able to unload most of (its, their) cargo before the hurricane struck.
- The Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies will publish Professor Becker's book as part of (its, their) publication series.
- Having mastered (electronics), Judith is very good at explaining (it, them) to the class.
- Have you ever wondered why (birds) resting on a branch or a telephone wire tuck (its, their) heads under their wings during a storm?
- The council didn't get to (its, their) final vote until nine o'clock that night.
- Someone from the boys' basketball team left (his, their) shoes on the bench.
- Those young (women) will carry (her, their) own luggage onto the plane.
- Neither of the girls can tell me where (her, their) sleeping bag is.

Review C: Agreement, p. 173**EXERCISE A**

- The sound of all these birds ~~echo~~ ^{echoes} all around the courtyard.
- Economics ~~seem~~ ^{seems} like a difficult subject to some people.
- Fifteen feet of rope ~~were~~ ^{was} necessary to secure the boat to the dock.
- Moving with one mind, the crowd ~~surge~~ ^{surges} toward the stage.

- ~~Don't~~ ^{Does} he know which way he's going?
- Where ~~is~~ ^{are} the books that I left on the kitchen counter?
- C
- Everybody who contributed to the charities ~~is~~ ^{are} welcome at the annual dinner.
- About ten percent of the furniture ~~are~~ ^{is} sitting in a warehouse.
- C

EXERCISE B

- Mikki has saved fifty dollars; she plans to use ~~them~~ ^{it} to buy a present.
- As soon as we heard the news from France, we passed ~~them~~ ^{it} along to our friends at home.
- After seeing the film *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*, Declan recommended ~~them~~ ^{it} to his brother.
- Candace or Melanie will bring ~~their~~ ^{her} soccer ball to the championship match.
- C
- No one who has ever seen Angkor Wat will ever forget ~~their~~ ^{his or her} first impression of it.
- We heard that some of the boys' ski team are bringing ~~his~~ ^{their} own skis.
- C
- After you're done with the binoculars, please put ~~it~~ ^{them} back in the case.
- The jury debated the verdict among ~~itself~~ ^{themselves}.

Review D: Agreement, p. 174**EXERCISE**

- Nicoletta or Jacqueline will present ~~their~~ ^{her} book report to the class tomorrow.
- Everybody in our classes ~~were~~ ^{was} informed in advance about the change in schedule.

3. Some of the best paintings are next door; let's look at ^{them} it first.
4. Here ^{are} is the books you ordered online, Ms. Shimeda.
5. Each of the teachers spoke to ^{his or her} their own class.
6. Some of the groceries already ^{have} has been placed in the pantry.
7. Either the players or the coach ^{calls} call timeout.
8. A theater and a rehearsal room ^{were} was added to the high school last year.
9. Everyone who completed ^{his or her} their project on time was rewarded with a bright, shiny apple.
10. Nobody in the caravan ^{was} were paying attention when the camel went astray.
11. The Cho family will take ^{its} their vacation this year in Thailand.
12. When the shears were broken, Eric found time to repair ^{them} it.
13. ^{Do} Doesn't the dog and cat get along?
14. Macaroni and cheese ^{is} are my favorite dish.
15. If you spill all of the cereal, make sure to clean ^{it} them up.
16. Neither Uncle Lyle nor Uncle Tector remembered where ^{his} their boots were.
17. The presence of thousands of peacekeeping troops ^{assures} assure the villagers of their safety.
18. When presented with a legal summons, a citizen has an obligation to respond to ^{it} them.
19. We will listen to half of *Nights in the Garden of Spain* this morning, and we will hear the rest of ^{it} them this afternoon.
20. Neither the students nor the players ^{are} is liable to forget the homecoming game.

Proofreading Application: Speech, p. 175

Mr. Frost, our conductor, and the orchestra ^{welcome} welcomes you to our first annual concert and chorus. Each of the members of our orchestra has spent many hours of ^{his or her} their own free time practicing for this event. Most of the selections tonight ^{were} was written or arranged by American composers. We are proud to say that several of our own students have contributed ^{their} his or her own compositions to the evening's entertainment. A few of our selections ^{include} includes choral accompaniment. Our chorus ^{is} are directed by Mrs. Theresa Fernandez. Either Mrs. Fernandez or Mr. Frost will be introducing ^{her or his} their selections as the evening continues. "The Stars and Stripes Forever" ^{is} are our first piece.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the music department may give ^{his or her} their contribution to the students at the table in the front hall. All of us at King Middle School ^{invite} invites you to sit back and enjoy the show.

Literary Model: Short Story, pp. 176–77

EXERCISE A

"Sam," says Bill, "I suppose you'll think I'm a renegade, but I couldn't help it. . . . The boy is gone. I sent him home. All is off. There was martyrs in old times," goes on Bill, "that suffered death rather than give up the particular graft they enjoyed. None of 'em was subjugated to such supernatural tortures as I have been. . . ."

"What's the trouble, Bill?" I asks him.

"I was rode," says Bill, "the ninety miles to the stockade, not barring an inch. Then, when the settlers was rescued, I was given oats. . . . I tell you, Sam, a human can only stand so much.

I takes him by the neck of his clothes and drags him down the mountain. On the way he kicks my legs black and blue from the knees down. . . .”

EXERCISE B

Responses will vary. A sample response is given.

Both characters make subject-verb agreement errors in their speech. O. Henry probably wanted his characters to sound as if they did not have a complete education, either by choice or because they lived in a time when not everyone received a complete education.

EXERCISE C

Responses will vary. A sample response is given.

“Roy, you have been my gardener for twenty years, and this is the first time in those twenty years that the roses do not look perfect. Whatever is the matter?”

“I’m awful sorry, Mrs. Whitcomb. It don’t seem to be a problem with the weather. And they was comin’ up as buds just fine. But then last week I started noticin’ how droopy your roses was lookin’. And it made me grieve ‘cause I know how much you was countin’ on showin’ ‘em at the county fair, like you always do.”

“Do you think we should call in a specialist—perhaps some type of soil doctor?”

“No, ma’am. There don’t seem to be cause for that yet. Give me a while to think on the problem first.”

EXERCISE D

Responses will vary. A sample response is given.

1. It gives the reader the information that the gardener probably did not get a complete education. It also helps to contrast the gardener’s background with his employer’s background.

2. I had to think of errors in subject-verb agreement that might really be said by someone with my character’s background. I wanted the character’s speech to be realistic, so I had to make sure I did not overdo using this type of error.

Writing Application: Directions, p. 178

Writing Applications are designed to provide students immediate composition practice in using key concepts taught in each chapter of the *Language and Sentence Skills Practice* booklet. You may wish to evaluate student responses to these assignments as you do any other writing that students produce. To save grading time, however, you may want to use the following scoring rubric.

Scoring Rubric

The clues can be puzzled out by thoughtful elementary school students.

1 2 3 4 5

Prepositional phrases have been used to describe the items’ locations, and agreement is correct.

1 2 3 4 5

The writing has an upbeat tone.

1 2 3 4 5

The assignment is relatively free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

1 2 3 4 5

Total Score _____

5 = highest; 1 = lowest