

Subject–Verb Agreement

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Find the TRUE subject (not a noun inside a prepositional phrase), then make the verb match in number. Indefinite pronouns 'each, every, everyone, everybody, neither, either' take SINGULAR verbs. 'Both, few, many, several' take PLURAL verbs. Collective nouns (team, family, class) usually take a singular verb when acting as one unit. With 'one of the X who...' the verb agrees with the plural noun (X).

PRACTICE

Choose the sentence with correct subject–verb agreement.

- Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
 - The box of crayons is on the bottom shelf.
 - The box of crayons are on the bottom shelf.
 - The box of crayons were on the bottom shelf.
 - The box of crayons have been on the bottom shelf.
- Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
 - Everyone in the fifth-grade classes are bringing a snack.
 - Everyone in the fifth-grade classes were bringing a snack.
 - Everyone in the fifth-grade classes is bringing a snack.
 - Everyone in the fifth-grade classes have brought a snack.
- Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
 - Neither of the answers are correct on the quiz.
 - Neither of the answers is correct on the quiz.
 - Neither of the answers were correct on the quiz.
 - Neither of the answers have been correct on the quiz.
- Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
 - There is twelve eggs left in the carton.
 - There was twelve eggs left in the carton.
 - There has twelve eggs left in the carton.
 - There are twelve eggs left in the carton.



5. Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
- A. The team practices on the field every Tuesday after school.
 - B. The team practice on the field every Tuesday after school.
 - C. The team are practice on the field every Tuesday after school.
 - D. The team have practice on the field every Tuesday after school.
6. Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
- A. One of the students who plays the trumpet is sick today.
 - B. One of the students who play the trumpet was sick today.
 - C. One of the students who play the trumpet is sick today.
 - D. One of the students who plays the trumpet are sick today.
7. Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
- A. Each of the runners have their own water bottle ready.
 - B. Each of the runners has her own water bottle ready.
 - C. Each of the runners are bringing their own water bottle ready.
 - D. Each of the runners were given their own water bottle ready.
8. Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
- A. The pack of wolves howl whenever the moon rises.
 - B. The pack of wolves are howling whenever the moon rises.
 - C. The pack of wolves were howl whenever the moon rises.
 - D. The pack of wolves howls whenever the moon rises.
9. Which sentence has correct subject–verb agreement?
- A. Both of the cousins lives in Atlanta with their grandparents.
 - B. Both of the cousins has been to Atlanta this summer.
 - C. Both of the cousins live in Atlanta with their grandparents.
 - D. Both of the cousins is living in Atlanta this summer.
10. Fill in the blank with the correct present-tense verb (is / are / has / have): 'A bowl of fresh strawberries _____ on the kitchen counter.'

Answer: _____



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

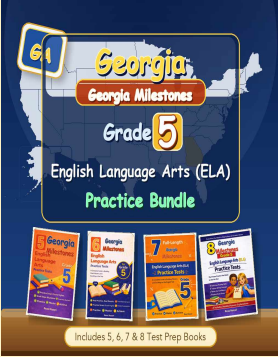
- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10

Explanations

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. A | The TRUE subject is 'box' (singular) — 'of crayons' is just a prepositional phrase. Singular subject takes 'is'. B, C, and D all make the same error: agreeing with the plural 'crayons' inside the prepositional phrase. |
| 2. C | 'Everyone' is always singular → 'is'. A, B, and D agree with the plural 'classes' inside the prepositional phrase, but 'classes' is NOT the subject. |
| 3. B | 'Neither' is singular → 'is'. A, C, and D agree with the plural 'answers' (object of 'of'), but the SUBJECT is 'neither'. |
| 4. D | In 'there is/are' sentences, the verb agrees with what FOLLOWS — 'twelve eggs' is plural, so 'are'. A and B use singular verbs. C uses 'has', which makes a different (wrong) sentence. |
| 5. A | 'Team' is a collective noun acting as ONE unit → singular 'practices'. B uses plural 'practice'. C is grammatically broken ('are practice'). D would mean 'have a practice' (different meaning). |
| 6. C | 'Who' refers to 'students' (plural) → 'play'. The MAIN verb 'is' matches the singular 'one'. A wrongly uses singular 'plays' for 'who'. B wrongly uses past 'was'. D wrongly uses plural 'are' for 'one'. |
| 7. B | 'Each' is singular → 'has'. A and C agree with the plural 'runners' in the prepositional phrase. D uses plural past 'were'. |
| 8. D | Subject = 'pack' (singular collective) → 'howls'. A and B agree with 'wolves' inside the prepositional phrase. C is grammatically broken ('were howl'). |
| 9. C | 'Both' is always plural → 'live'. A uses singular 'lives'. B uses singular 'has'. D uses singular 'is'. |
| 10. is | Subject = 'bowl' (singular). 'Of fresh strawberries' is a prepositional phrase, not the subject. Correct verb: 'is'. Mark wrong: 'are' or 'have' (agreeing with the plural strawberries) and 'has' (wrong main-verb meaning here). |



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