Subject and Verb Agreement Exercise

**Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.**

1. Annie and her brothers (is, are) at school.

 and + = plural verb

2. Either my mother or **my father** (is,are) coming to the meeting.

 Or - = we drop off the noun before “**or/ but/ yet/ nor**” and **the verb agrees with the noun**

 **next to it.**

3. The dog or **the cats** (is, are) outside.

 \* See above # 2

4. Either my shoes or your coat (is, are) always on the floor.

 \* see above # 2

5. George and Tamara (doesn't, don't) want to see that movie.

 \*see above # 1

6. Benito (doesn't, don't) know the answer.

7. One of my sisters (is, are) going on a trip to France.

**One, each, everyone, someone, no one, somebody, anybody =** of my sisters-VERB IS SINGULAR

8. The man with all the birds (live, lives) on my street.

**With/ together with /as well as/ including/ ,…….,** = the phrases starting with these

\* conjunctions and in between 2 commas are attachments and they do NOT decide the verb. The verb agrees with the noun before these conjunction phrases.

9. The movie, including all the previews, (take, takes) about two hours to watch.

 \*see above # 8

10. The players, as well as the captain, (want, wants) to win.

 \*see above # 8

11. Either answer (is, are) acceptable.

Either / neither ( without “or/nor” ) – **singular verb**

12. Every one of those books (is, are) fiction.

 \*see above # 7

13. Nobody (know, knows) the trouble I've seen.

 \*see above # 7

14. (Is, Are) the news on at five or six?

Uncountable and collective nouns – **singular verb** (\* there are some exceptions- will be explained see 20 /21)

15. Mathematics (is, are) John's favorite subject, while Civics (is, are) Andrea's favorite subject.

**Words ending in “s” that are singular= need singular verb**

16. Eight dollars (is, are) the price of a movie these days.

Inverted subject

Correct word order of this sentence is: The price of a movie these days is eight dollars.

17. (Is, Are) the tweezers in this drawer?

Words with 2 parts have plural form (ending in s) and use plural verb even if we mean 1

**(pants, scissors, scales, tweezers, shoes, sleeves, glasses, gloves, trousers, socks)**

 My trousers (1 or more) needironing.

 \* If you want to mark 1: A pair of my *pants* is at the cleaners.

18. Your pants (is, are) at the cleaner's.

 \* see above #17

19. **There** (was, were) fifteen candies in that bag. Now **there** (is, are) only one left!

**With words there/ here the subject is inverted (is after the verb)**

20. The committee (debates, debate) these questions carefully.

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Collective Noun are considered as 1 chunk/group

(Collective/ uncountable nouns: news, information, knowledge, advice, baggage/ luggage, hair, liquids, fruit, fish, rice, stuff, Exceptions**: people, idea** (people are/ ideas-are but never use –s with advice, information, news, knowledge)

 **\* collective nouns that include many people but are seen as 1 chunk if they all do the action at the same time/ together- use SINGULAR VERB team, group, committee, family, crowd, population, nation, staff, unit, choir**…)

 The family of four (is/ are) travelling to Paris next week. (do action together)

 The family of four (is/ are) having lunch at their available time. (do the action separately/ different time)

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21. The committee (leads, lead) very different lives in private.

**\* collective nouns that include many people but are seen as 1 chunk- if they do the action separately / at different time/ different way- use PLURAL VERB**

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22. The Prime Minister, *together* with his wife, (greets, greet) the press cordially.

 \* See above #8

23. All of the CDs , even the scratched one, (is, are) in this case.

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\* Phrases starting with “ of + noun ” are adjective phrases and do not decide the verb

Example: Each of the students (is/ are) learning grammar.

BUT : Phrases starting with “ of + noun ” as adjective phrases CAN decide the verb if the subject is some/ all/ % /fraction

So, once again, the words All and Some , % and fractions( ¾) (which are also followed by the phrase starting with “of”) DO NOT decide the verb- The verb agrees with the noun in the “of phrase”)

Example: Some of the students (is/ are) learning grammar.

 Some of the water (is /are) contaminated.

 10 % of water (is/are) contaminated. 98% of oil is ……

 10 % of students (is/are) here.

I put 10% of candies in the bag. (subject in these 2 sentences is not the % but I or she)

She puts 10% of candies in the bag.

But in this sentence the subject is % but the verb agrees with the noun in “of phrase”

 10% of candies are in the bag.

Source: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/>