

worksheet on subject verb agreement with answers

Worksheet on Subject Verb Agreement with Answers

Subject-verb agreement is a fundamental aspect of English grammar that ensures clarity and coherence in writing and speaking. It refers to the rule that subjects and verbs must agree in number and person. In this article, we will provide a comprehensive worksheet designed to test your understanding of subject-verb agreement, along with answers and explanations. This resource is suitable for learners at various levels, including students preparing for exams, teachers looking for classroom materials, or anyone wanting to reinforce their grammar skills.

Understanding Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement is the grammatical rule that states that singular subjects take singular verbs, while plural subjects take plural verbs. This agreement is essential for the proper structure of sentences. Here are some key points to remember:

Basic Rules

1. Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Example: The cat runs fast.
2. Plural subjects take plural verbs.
- Example: The cats run fast.
3. When the subject is composed of two or more nouns connected by "and," it takes a plural verb.
- Example: The dog and the cat are friends.
4. When subjects are connected by "or" or "nor," the verb agrees with the nearest subject.
- Example: Either the teacher or the students are responsible for the project.
5. Collective nouns can take either singular or plural verbs based on whether the group acts as a single unit or as individuals.
- Example: The team wins (singular) vs. The team are arguing among themselves (plural).

Worksheet on Subject-Verb Agreement

Below is a worksheet designed to test your knowledge of subject-verb agreement. Read each sentence and choose the correct verb form. Answers are provided at the end.

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

1. The group of students _____ (is/are) going to the museum.
2. Each of the players _____ (has/have) a unique talent.
3. Neither the dog nor the cats _____ (was/were) outside.
4. The bouquet of flowers _____ (smell/smells) wonderful.
5. The team _____ (is/are) preparing for the championship.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Verb

6. The committee _____ (decide/decides) on the new policy next week.
7. Neither the manager nor the employees _____ (was/were) informed about the change.
8. Every student _____ (has/have) to submit their assignment by Friday.
9. The data _____ (is/are) being analyzed for accuracy.
10. A pair of shoes _____ (was/were) left at the entrance.

Exercise 3: Correct the Sentences

Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences:

11. The list of items are on the table.
12. The news were surprising to everyone.
13. There is many reasons to celebrate.
14. The flock of birds are flying south.
15. Either the teacher or the students was late for class.

Answers and Explanations

Now that you have completed the worksheet, let's go over the answers and explanations.

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

1. is - The subject "group" is singular.
2. has - "Each" is always singular, thus requires a singular verb.
3. was - "Neither/nor" construction takes the nearest subject "cats," which is plural, but "dog" is singular.
4. smells - "Bouquet" is a singular subject.
5. is - "Team" is treated as a singular entity.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Verb

6. decides - The committee is a singular noun.
7. were - The nearest subject "employees" is plural.
8. has - "Every" requires a singular verb.
9. is - "Data" is treated as a singular mass noun in this context.
10. was - "Pair" is a singular noun.

Exercise 3: Correct the Sentences

11. The list of items is on the table. (Correct the verb to singular)
12. The news was surprising to everyone. (Correct the verb to singular)
13. There are many reasons to celebrate. (Correct "is" to "are")
14. The flock of birds is flying south. (Correct the verb to singular)
15. Either the teacher or the students were late for class. (Correct the verb to plural, as "students" is nearest)

Tips for Mastering Subject-Verb Agreement

To excel at subject-verb agreement, consider the following tips:

1. Identify the Subject: Determine whether the subject is singular or plural before choosing the verb.
2. Look for Key Words: Words like "each," "every," and "neither/nor" can indicate singular agreement.
3. Practice Regularly: Engage in regular exercises to reinforce your understanding.
4. Read Aloud: Reading sentences aloud can help you hear whether the subject and verb agree.
5. Use Grammar Resources: Utilize grammar books and online resources for additional practice and clarification.

Conclusion

Subject-verb agreement is a vital component of English grammar that enhances the clarity and effectiveness of communication. By practicing with worksheets like the one provided above, learners can strengthen their grasp of this essential rule. Remember to pay attention to the nuances of subject-verb agreement, as they can vary in different contexts. With consistent practice and attention to detail, you can master subject-verb agreement and improve your overall writing and speaking skills.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is subject-verb agreement?

Subject-verb agreement is the grammatical rule that the subject of a sentence must agree in number with its verb, meaning singular subjects take singular verbs and plural subjects take plural verbs.

Why is subject-verb agreement important in writing?

Subject-verb agreement is important because it helps maintain clarity and coherence in writing, ensuring that sentences are grammatically correct and easy to understand.

Can you give an example of correct subject-verb agreement?

Sure! An example of correct subject-verb agreement is: 'The dog barks.' Here, 'dog' is singular, and 'barks' is the singular form of the verb.

What are common mistakes in subject-verb agreement?

Common mistakes include using a singular verb with a plural subject or vice versa, such as saying 'The team are winning' instead of 'The team is winning.'

How can worksheets help with subject-verb agreement?

Worksheets can provide practice exercises that reinforce the rules of subject-verb agreement, helping students identify and correct errors in their writing.

What types of exercises are typically found in a subject-verb agreement worksheet?

Typical exercises include fill-in-the-blank sentences, multiple-choice questions, and error correction tasks that focus on identifying and fixing subject-verb agreement errors.

How can you check your work for subject-verb agreement?

You can check your work by identifying the subject of each sentence and ensuring that the verb matches in number, or by reading the sentence out loud to see if it sounds correct.

Are there exceptions to subject-verb agreement rules?

Yes, there are exceptions, such as collective nouns (e.g., 'team,' 'group') which can be singular or plural depending on whether the group is acting as a single entity or as individuals.

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