

Subject-Verb Agreement A

EXERCISE A In each sentence below, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees in number with its subject.

Example 1. Either Fred or Ned (is, are) the oldest of the three brothers.

1. Both the pasta and the broiled fish (*is, are*) good choices at this restaurant.
2. Unfortunately, not one of the desserts (*appeal, appeals*) to me.
3. Don't you think the prices on the dinner menu (*look, looks*) reasonable?
4. My mother and I usually (*have, has*) a salad, but my father always orders soup.
5. Which one of the soups (*is, are*) being served tonight?
6. The proprietor and her husband (*know, knows*) most of the people who eat here regularly.
7. Both of them (*cooks, cook*), but she develops most of the recipes.
8. (*Do, Does*) either of them have formal training as a chef?
9. I believe she does, but he just (*enjoy, enjoys*) cooking.
10. My family (*eat, eats*) here on special occasions, especially birthdays.

EXERCISE B In each sentence below, cross through any verb that does not agree with its subject and write the correct form of the verb above the incorrect form. If all the verbs in a sentence are already correct, write C to the left of the item number.

Example 1. Either my brother or one of my parents ^{feeds} ~~feed~~ the dogs in the evening.

11. My job, unless I have a practice that run late, is to walk the dogs daily.
12. Whose responsibilities includes bathing the dogs?
13. Bathing the dogs are a shared responsibility in our house; we take turns.
14. The dogs like to go on long walks, but unfortunately, one of them are not very well trained.
15. While one dog walk by my side obediently, the other always pulls and strains on the leash.
16. Surprisingly, our big dog—Teeny, the Great Dane—is content to do whatever she is asked.
17. You're not telling me that Tiger, your terrier, cause any trouble?
18. Believe me, Tiger is stronger than a lot of dogs twice her size is!
19. Tiger and Teeny, despite the difference in size, really gets along very well.
20. Many people are cautious around Teeny, especially, but neither of these two dogs has ever bitten anyone.

Active and Passive Voice

When the subject of a verb performs the action, the verb is in the *active voice*. When the subject receives the action, the verb is in the *passive voice*.

ACTIVE Olivia **bought** a bag of oranges. [The subject, *Olivia*, performs the action.]

PASSIVE The bag of oranges **was bought** by Olivia. [The subject, *bag*, receives the action.]

A transitive verb in the active voice often has both an indirect object and a direct object. When such a verb is put in the passive voice, either object can become the subject. The other object may serve as a complement called a *retained object*.

ACTIVE Mr. Jenkins read the class a short story.

PASSIVE A short story was read to the class by Mr. Jenkins.

PASSIVE The class was read a short story.

EXERCISE A On the line before each sentence below, indicate the voice of the verb by writing *A* for *active* or *P* for *passive*. Some passive sentences contain retained objects. Write *RO* above any retained objects.

Example P 1. Which books have been checked out by Leota?

- _____ 1. Maggie admired her classmates' interesting and informative exhibits at the science fair.
- _____ 2. A fierce eagle's face was painted on one of the poles near Ketchikan.
- _____ 3. The volunteer was given a thank-you certificate for all his work and dedication.
- _____ 4. One artist had made a perfectly shaped pot without using a potter's wheel.
- _____ 5. At the end of our hike, we were rewarded by a gorgeous view of the sunset.

EXERCISE B On the line after each sentence below, revise the sentence to make it an active voice sentence. If the performer of an action is not mentioned, leave the sentence as it is and write *Correct*.

Example 1. The pigs were fed by the farmer. The farmer fed the pigs.

6. The letter was signed by the entire class. _____
7. The manuscript was edited by Paulo. _____
8. A large, colorful poster was hung in the window. _____
9. Finally, an understanding was reached by all parties. _____
10. The Purple Heart was presented to the veteran by the President. _____