

## PROBLEMS WITH SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT

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### Skill 20: MAKE VERBS AGREE AFTER PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

**EXERCISE 20:** Each of the following sentences has one or more prepositional phrases between the subject and verb. Circle the prepositional phrases. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_ 1. The climbers on the sheer face of the mountain need to be rescued.
- \_\_\_ 2. The interrogation, conducted by three police officers, have lasted for several hours.
- \_\_\_ 3. The tenants in the apartment next to mine is giving a party this evening.
- \_\_\_ 4. The president, surrounded by secret service agents, is trying to make his way to the podium.
- \_\_\_ 5. The buildings destroyed during the fire are being rebuilt at the taxpayers' expense.
- \_\_\_ 6. Because of the seriousness of the company's financial problems, the board of directors have called an emergency meeting.
- \_\_\_ 7. Manufacture of the items that you requested have been discontinued because of lack of profit on those items.
- \_\_\_ 8. Further development of any new ideas for future products has to be approved in advance.
- \_\_\_ 9. The scheduled departure time of the trains, posted on panels throughout the terminal buildings, are going to be updated.
- \_\_\_ 10. Any houses built in that development before 1970 have to be upgraded to meet current standards.

### Skill 21: MAKE VERBS AGREE AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY

**EXERCISE 21:** Each of the following sentences has a quantity expression as the subject. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the objects that the verbs agree with. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_ 1. The witnesses saw that most of the fire in the hills was extinguished.
- \_\_\_ 2. Some of the animals from the zoo was released into the animal preserve.
- \_\_\_ 3. All of the students in the class taught by Professor Roberts is required to turn in their term papers next Monday.
- \_\_\_ 4. Half of the food that we are serving to the guests are still in the refrigerator.
- \_\_\_ 5. We believe that some of the time of the employees is going to be devoted to quality

control.

- \_\_\_ 6. All of the witnesses in the jury trial, which lasted more than two weeks, have indicated that they believed that the defendant was guilty.
- \_\_\_ 7. She did not know where most of the people in the room was from.
- \_\_\_ 8. In spite of what was decided at the meeting, half of the procedures was not changed.
- \_\_\_ 9. I was sure that all of the questions on the test were correct.
- \_\_\_ 10. Most of the trouble that the employees discussed at the series of meetings was resolved within a few weeks.

### Skill 22: MAKE INVERTED VERBS AGREE

**EXERCISE 22:** Each of the following sentences contains an inverted subject and verb. Circle the word or group of words that causes the subject and verb to invert. Find the subject and verb that follow these words. Underline the subject once and the verb twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_ 1. Only once this morning were the letters delivered by the campus mail service.
- \_\_\_ 2. Around the corner and to the right is the rooms that have been assigned to that program.
- \_\_\_ 3. What in the world is the children trying to do?
- \_\_\_ 4. John would be studying the chapters were he able to get hold of the book.
- \_\_\_ 5. This chapter has many more exercises than do the next one.
- \_\_\_ 6. The computer programmer was unaware that there was so many mistakes in the program he had written.
- \_\_\_ 7. Seldom in the history of television has two new comedies been so successful in one season.
- \_\_\_ 8. How many huge mistakes have the teacher actually found in the research paper?
- \_\_\_ 9. The new phone system is able to hold far more messages than was the phone system that had previously been used.
- \_\_\_ 10. In the parking lot south of the stadium was the cars that were about to be towed.

### Skill 23: MAKE VERBS AGREE AFTER CERTAIN WORDS

**EXERCISE 23:** Each of the following sentences contains one of the words that are grammatically singular but have plural meanings. Underline these words once and underline the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_ 1. It is impossible to believe that somebody actually admire that man.

- \_\_\_ 2. Each of the doctors in the building needs to have a separate reception area.
- \_\_\_ 3. The president felt that no one were better suited for the position of chief staff advisor.
- \_\_\_ 4. Everybody participating in the fund-raiser are to turn in the tickets by 8:00.
- \_\_\_ 5. Because of the low number of orders, nothing has to be done now.
- \_\_\_ 6. Every time someone take unnecessary breaks, precious moments of production time are lost.
- \_\_\_ 7. Anybody who goes to the top of the Empire State Building is impressed with the view.
- \_\_\_ 8. Every man, woman, and child in this line are required to sign the forms in order to complete the registration process.
- \_\_\_ 9. It is nice to believe that anything is possible if a person tries hard enough.
- \_\_\_ 10. The company reiterated to reporters that nobody have been dismissed because of the incident.

**EXERCISE (Skills 20-23):** Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice in each of the following sentences. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_ 1. The contracts signed by the company has been voided because some stipulations were not met.
- \_\_\_ 2. Ten miles beyond the river was the farmlands that they had purchased with their life savings.
- \_\_\_ 3. Each package that is not properly wrapped have to be returned to the sender.
- \_\_\_ 4. She would not have to enter the house through the bedroom window were the keys where they were supposed to be.
- \_\_\_ 5. The proposal brought so much new work to the partnership that there was not enough hours to complete all of it.
- \_\_\_ 6. The box of disks for the computer have been misplaced.
- \_\_\_ 7. It is disconcerting to believe that every possible candidate has been rejected for one reason or another.
- \_\_\_ 8. Only once have there been more excitement in this city about a sporting event.
- \_\_\_ 9. Bobby has a bigger bicycle than does the other children in the neighborhood.
- \_\_\_ 10. If nobody have bought that car from the dealer, then you should return and make another offer.