

Subject/Verb Agreement

Part 2

Subjects and verbs must work together. They must agree. A verb that does not end in a single s, es, or ies is used with a plural noun. These pronoun subjects - **I, we, you, or they** – are also used with the plural verb form.

Examples:

Hounds train

Hounds of all varieties train their noses to follow specific scents.

Traps catch

Traps by the river catch raccoons quickly.

Nails make

Nails in a hollow log make a good raccoon trap.

More Examples:

We figure

We figure he will catch a raccoon in another day.

They trap

They trap raccoons down in the valley.

Even More Examples:

Even though the pronouns I and you are singular you use the plural forms of the verb with them.

I think

I think Billy will catch a raccoon soon.

You bet

You bet your boots the trap will work.

There are many rules about subject verb agreement, but we are going to cover just one more.

Don't be confused by subjects
that come at the end of the
sentence.

Wrong

Standing in the back of the store was Billy's parents. (Turn the sentence around and it will be clearer. Billy's parents was standing in the back of the room.)

Right

Standing in the back of the store were Billy's parents.

Wrong

At the end of the coon hunt come the passing out of trophies. (Turn the sentence around and it will be clearer. The passing out of trophies come at the end of the coon hunt.)

Right

At the end of the coon hunt comes the passing out of trophies.

Which is correct?

- a) At the end of the day come the sharing of dinner.
- b) At the end of the day comes the sharing of dinner.

b) At the end of the day comes the sharing of dinner.

dinner comes

Which is correct?

- a) At the end of the line was three dirty men.
- b) At the end of the line were three dirty men.

b) At the end of the line were three
dirty men.

men were

Practice – Number your paper from 1 to 32. Write the correct answer for each of the following items.

1. Grandpa and Billy (build, builds) a special trap.

2. I (see, sees) Grandpa was serious and I get interested.

3. Coons (jump, jumps) at the opportunity to steal a shiny piece of metal.

4. They (carry, carries) the trap to the river.

5. Neither Grandpa nor the coons
(give, gives) up on the plan.

6. He (carry, carries) out our knives, forks, and spoons.

7. Anything that was bright and shinny, he (take, takes) to his den.

8. Mama and Papa (catch, catches)
me cutting out the circles of tin
with the good scissors.

9. My mother's old churn (topple, topples) over and spills the butter.

10. Everything (go, goes) in the trash pile.

11. Papa's words (perk, perks) me
up just like air does a deflated
inner tube.

12. Morning after morning I (feel, feels) the same old disappointment.

13. The family (sit, sits) down to breakfast.

14. Weeks (go, goes) by.

15. Mama (yell, yells) something to him about a snake.

16. Neither Little Ann nor Old Dan
(see, sees) the raccoon.

17. Each (freeze, freezes) in his tracks.

18. Mama's hot apple pie (grow,
grows) cold waiting on the
hunters to return.

19. Each of the men (catch, catches) three coons.

20. Billy, as well as his Papa, (feel, feels) using a shotgun is unfair in a coon hunt.

21. Neither Little Ann or Old Dan
(give, gives) the raccoon a lead in
the chase.

22. Standing there looking happy
(was, were) Grandpa and Billy.

23. Eight pounds of cheese (is, are)
heavy to carry.

24. Only one out of five boys in America (like, likes) to hunt.

25. The news of the coon hunt
(spread, spreads) through the
hills.

26. Fifty dollars (was, were) a lot of money for Billy to earn.

27. At the end of a long trip (come, comes) a victorious Billy.

28. Which of the following is written correctly?

- a) He turn the boy pup loose.
- b) I dart in and grab him by the hind leg.
- c) With a pup under each arm Billy run for the house.
- d) Mama and Papa yells something to him.

29. Which of the following sentences does not contain a mistake?

- a) She shout, "Where did it bite you?"
- b) My sisters jumps up and hug me.
- c) Mama looks at me, smile, and turns to the girls.
- d) Their answers surprise Mama.

30. Choose the answer that is written correctly.

- a) You seems fine to me.
- b) The girls bury their faces in Mama's dress.
- c) Papa whack him again and it was all over.
- d) Everybody smile when they realize Billy is not hurt.

31. Which of the following sentences does not contain a mistake?

- a) Birch trees leans out over the river.
- b) His stout legs help with leverage.
- c) Coon hunting teach Billy to be patient.
- d) My grandfather's store sit on top of the mountain.

32. Choose the answer that is written correctly.

- a) Grandpa kid Billy.
- b) Either Little Ann or Old Dan fall in the river.
- c) Two years seems like a long time for a 12 year old.
- d) They hears the wind in the top of the trees.

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