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**СОГЛАСОВАНИЕ
ПОДЛЕЖАЩЕГО И СКАЗУЕМОГО
В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

Учебно-практическое пособие

На английском языке

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Материал пособия может быть использован для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы обучающихся по дисциплинам “Иностранный язык”, “Практическая грамматика английского языка”, “Практический курс английского языка”.

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Пояснительная записка

Целью данного учебно-практического пособия является совершенствование языковой подготовки студентов, обучающихся по направлению “Педагогическое образование”, профили “История. Английский язык”, “Начальное образование. Английский язык”, “Дошкольное образование. Иностранный язык”, “Информатика. Иностранный язык”.

Пособие содержит материал, отражающий особенности согласования подлежащего и сказуемого в английском языке, а также упражнения для закрепления изученного.

Правильное построение предложений и грамотное общение на английском языке не представляется возможным без тщательного изучения данной темы, так как число некоторых существительных, обозначающих одни и те же предметы, явления или понятия может не совпадать в разных языках (в частности, в русском и английском). По этой причине необходимо знать и понимать правила согласования подлежащего и сказуемого, что позволит составлять правильные с грамматической точки зрения предложения.

В начале пособия представлен теоретический материал с примерами, на основе которого составлены грамматические упражнения для закрепления изученной темы. В конце пособия тот же самый теоретический материал систематизирован в виде таблиц, что может облегчить работу с ним во время выполнения практической части.

Материал пособия может быть использован для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов по дисциплинам “Иностранный язык”, “Практическая грамматика английского языка”, “Практический курс английского языка”, “Практический курс английского языка”.

1. Introduction

Sentences of various types are made up of elements that are called parts of the sentence. They are classified into principal parts and secondary parts. The principal parts of a two-member sentence are traditionally considered to be the subject and the predicate.

The **subject** refers to the person or thing whose action or state is defined by the predicate. The subject controls the form of the verb which typically follows the subject (in declarative sentences). The subject can be expressed by different parts of speech: a noun in the common case, a pronoun, a substantivized adjective or participle, a numeral, an infinitive, a gerund or any part of speech used as a quotation.

The **predicate** denotes an action performed by the subject or a state of the subject. It also expresses the relation of the action to reality, the direction of the action, the time, and the aspect of the action. Normally the predicate contains a **finite verb** which grammatically agrees with the subject.

2. Subject-Verb Agreement

In the English language the verb-predicate agrees with the subject in person and number, i.e. a singular subject requires a verb in the singular, a plural subject requires a verb in the plural. This rule of grammatical agreement – concord – affects the use of the finite verb in all present tenses apart from the verb *to be*. This verb is an exception because it agrees with the subject not only in the present but in the past tense as well.

The following rules of agreement of the verb with the subject should be observed:

1. When names and titles ending in *-s* refer to a single unit we use a singular verb (countries, newspapers, titles of books, films, quoted plural words or phrases).

At this time of the year the Netherlands **is** one hour ahead of the UK.

The Croods **is** a 2013 American computer-animated adventure comedy film produced by DreamWorks Animation.

The Financial Times **is** a British daily newspaper that **focuses** on business and economic current affairs.

2. With *every* or *each* and a singular noun or coordinated noun (x and y) we use a singular verb.

Every boy and girl **takes** part in the activity.

Every room **looks** over the harbour.

3. With *everyone*, *everybody*, *everything* (and similar words beginning *any-*, *some-* and *no-*) the verb is singular.

Everyone **needs** some free time for rest and relaxation.

Everything in this flat **is** mine.

4. With *any of, none of, the majority of, a lot of, most of, plenty of, all (of), some (of)* and an uncountable noun or a singular noun we use a singular verb.

All the furniture **was** destroyed in the fire.

Some of the book **is** interesting.

5. With *a/the majority of, a number of, a lot of, plenty of, all (of), some (of)* and a plural noun/pronoun we use a plural verb.

A number of refugees **have** been turned back at the border.

But we use a singular verb with *the number of/the variety of + noun*.

The number of books in the library **has** risen to over five million.

6. With *any of, each of, either of, neither of, none of* and a plural noun/pronoun we can use a singular or plural verb. We use a singular verb for careful written English.

I don't think any of them **knows/know** where the money is hidden.

Neither of the French athletes **has/have** won this year.

7. With *one of* and a plural noun/pronoun we use a singular verb.

One of the reasons I took the job **was** that I could work from home.

However, after *one of + plural noun/pronoun + who* we can often use either a singular or plural verb. A plural verb is more grammatical.

He is one of those teachers who **insist/insists** on pupils sitting silently in class.

8. The verb is used in the plural when a subject has two or more items joined by *and*.

Tom and James **are** playing football in the yard.

However, phrases connected by *and* can also be followed by singular verbs if we think of them as making up a single item.

The lorry, its cargo and passengers **weighs** around 35 tons. (or ...**weigh**)

9. When a subject is made up of two or more items joined by *not only ... but (also)*, *(either) ... or ...*, *(neither) ... nor ...* we use a singular verb if the last item is singular (although a plural verb is sometimes used in informal English), and a plural verb if the last item is plural.

Either the station or the cinema **is** a good place to meet. (or ... **are** ... in informal English)

The President or his representatives **are** to attend the meeting.

If the last item is singular and the previous item is plural, we can use a singular or plural verb.

Either the teachers or the principal **is** to blame for the accident. (or ... **are** to blame)

10. When two subjects are connected by *as well as*, the verb agrees with the subject that stands first.

The Volga as well as its affluents **is** very picturesque.

11. In *there + be/have* we use a singular verb form with singular and uncountable nouns and a plural form with plural nouns.

There **is** a book under her bed.

Over the last few years there **have** been many improvements in car safety.

However, in informal speech we often use a shortened singular form of *be* or *have* (= *There's*) with plural nouns.

There's been lots of good films on lately. (or ... *There've* been ...)

If there are some subjects of different number the verb usually agrees with the subject that stands first.

There **is** a desk and four chairs in this room.

12. With a phrase referring to a measurement, amount or quantity we usually prefer a single verb.

Only three metres **separates** the runners in first and second places.
(rather than ... *separate*)

When the first noun in a complex subject is a percentage or a fraction the verb agrees with the noun closest to the verb.

About 50% of the houses **need** major repairs.

13. If the subject is expressed by a group of words denoting arithmetic calculations (addition, subtraction, division) the verb is usually singular; multiplication is an exception as the verb may be in the singular or in the plural.

Two and two **is** four.

Twenty divided by five **equals** four.

14. If the subject is expressed by the word-group *many a ...* the verb is in the singular.

Many a lie **has** been told.

15. If the subject is expressed by *the gerund* (ing-form) the verb is in the singular.

Watching old movies **is** fun.

16. If the subject is expressed by *the infinitive (+ infinitive)* the verb is in the singular.

To love and to be loved **was** all he wanted.

17. If the subject is a *clause*, we usually use a singular verb.

Whoever took them **remains** a mystery.

However, if we use a *what-clause* as subject, we use a singular verb if the following main noun is singular, and either a singular or a plural verb if the following main noun is plural (although a plural verb is preferred in more formal contexts).

What worries us **is** the poor selection *process*.

What is needed **are** additional *resources*. (or ... needed is)

18. When the subject of the sentence is complex the following verb must agree with the main noun in the subject.

The only *excuse* that he gave for his actions **was** that he was tired.

The verb must agree with the subject when the subject follows the verb.

Displayed on the board **were** the exam results.

●To identify the real subject of the sentence ask yourself *who* or *what* does the action.

19. If the subject is expressed by a word-group consisting of two nouns connected by the preposition *with* or the expression *together with* (*including, accompanied by, in addition to, along with*), the verb is in the singular.

A woman with a child on the second floor **is screaming** and **waving**.

20. If the subject is expressed by an interrogative pronoun *who* or *what*, the verb is usually in the singular.

Who **was** at the lecture yesterday?

If the question refers to more than one person, the verb may be used in the plural.

21. When the subject is expressed by a relative pronoun (*who, which, that*), the verb agrees with the noun that comes before it (antecedent).

Near them were the old people who **were watching** the dancing.

If these pronouns refer to only one thing or person, use a singular verb.

This is the only one of the trees that **blooms**.

22. If the subject is modified by two or more attributes connected by *and*, the verb is in the singular when one person, thing or idea is meant. If two or more persons, things or ideas are meant, the verb is in the plural.

The red and the white rose **are** both beautiful.

The red and white rose **is** beautiful.

23. Some nouns are usually plural and take a plural verb.

The company's earnings **have** increased for the last five years.

Note that *whereabouts* can be used with either a singular or plural verb.

His exact whereabouts **is/are** unknown.

Police, people, cattle always take a plural verb, and *staff* usually does.

Staff **say** that the new computer system has led to greater levels of stress in their work.

The words *data* and *media* (= newspaper, television, etc.) are plural (singular *datum* and *medium*) but they are commonly used with a singular verb. However, in formal contexts a plural verb is preferred.

All the data **is** available for public inspection. (or ... **are** available ...)

Note that other similar plurals such as *criteria* and *phenomena* (singular *criterion* and *phenomenon*) are always used with plural verbs.

I agree that the criteria **are** not of equal importance.

Here is a list of common plural nouns:

belongings, binoculars, *cattle*, *clergy*, clothes, congratulations, earnings, *gentry*, glasses, goods, headquarters, *infantry*, jeans, odds, outskirts, overheads, particulars, *people*, *police*, premises, riches, savings, scales, scissors, shorts, stairs, surroundings, talks, thanks, tongs, trousers, whereabouts.

24. Some uncountable nouns always end in **-s** and look as if they are plural, but when we use them as the subject they have a singular verb.

These nouns refer mainly to subjects of study, activities, games, and diseases.

The news from the Middle East **seems** very encouraging.

● Check the dictionary if you are uncertain of a word's number.

Note that *politics*, *statistics*, *economics* take a singular verb when we use them in the meaning "academic subject". They take a plural verb in general use (politics = political belief, statistics = numerical information, economics = the financial system).

Statistics **was** always my worst subject.

Statistics **are** able to prove anything you want them to.

25. Some nouns with a singular form, referring to groups of some kind, can be used with either a singular or plural form of the verb. These nouns are sometimes called collective nouns.

The council **has** postponed a decision on the new road. (or ... **have**)

We use a singular verb if the focus is on the institution or organization as a whole unit, and a plural verb if the focus is on a collection of individuals (when the individuals act separately). Often we can use either with very little difference in meaning, although in formal contexts it is common to use a singular verb.

In some contexts we have to use a singular or a plural form of the verb.

The committee usually **raise** their hands to vote “Yes”. (not ... raises)

This is something the individuals do, not the committee as a whole. Note that *mankind* and *humanity* are always used with a singular verb.

Mankind **has** marvelled at diamonds for at least 2000 years.

Here is a list of common collective nouns:

army, association, audience, band, board, choir, class, club, college, commission, committee, community, company, congregation, corporation, council, crew, crowd, delegation, department, electorate, enemy, ensemble, faculty, family, federation, flock, herd, gang, generation, government, group, humanity, infantry, institute, jury, mankind, mob, nobility, opposition, orchestra, pack, party, population, press, public, school, staff, team, troupe, university; the Bank of England, the BBC, IBM, Sony, The United Nations.

26. An adjective preceded by *the* and used as a collective noun to refer to people who have that quality always takes a plural verb.

The poor **have** many problems.

27. When the collective nouns *couple* and *pair* refer to people we usually use a plural verb.

A pair of students **are** lifting a heavy trunk.

3.Exercises

Exercise 1. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. The oranges in your orchard *is/are* large this year.
2. A brick house with many windows *is/are* what the family wants.
3. Neither the instructor nor the students *has/have* a problem with the schedule.
4. The United States *is/are* in North America.
5. The news in that newspaper *is/are* fantastic.
6. Economics *is/are* an important area of study.
7. Rabies *is/are* a disease you can get from being bitten by an infected animal.
8. One hundred metres *isn't/aren't* a long distance to travel by car.
9. Six and four *is/are* ten.
10. The English *is/are* friendly people.
11. The elderly in my country *is/are* given free medical care.
12. Four colourful fish *is/are* swimming in the fish tank.
13. Each skater in the competition *has/have* trained since childhood.
14. A convention of English teachers from all over the world *takes/take* place every spring.
15. Some of the new movies *is/are* good, but a lot of them *has/have* too much violence.
16. We saw a film about India last night. Some of the movie *was/were* fascinating, and there *was/were* a lot of beautiful mountain scenes.

17. Three-fourths of the patients who *takes/take* this new medicine report improvement.
18. Five dollars *is/are* too much to pay for a pencil.
19. The Sunday Times *is/are* a British newspaper whose circulation makes it the largest in the quality press market category.
20. Almost three-quarters of the surface of the earth *is/are* covered by water.
21. The handicapped *uses/use* a special entrance in this building.
22. Diabetes *is/are* an illness. People who *has/have* it must be careful with their diet.
23. There *is/are* 100 senators in the United States Senate. The number of votes necessary for a simple majority *is/are* 51.
24. One of my friends *keeps/keep* a goldfish bowl on her kitchen table.
25. Dominoes *is/are* played by a lot of old men in cafes.
26. Lettuce *is/are* good for you.
27. The subjects you will be studying in this course *is/are* listed in the syllabus.
28. The extent of Ann's knowledge on various subjects *astounds/astound* me.
29. Oranges, tomatoes, fresh strawberries, cabbage, and lettuce *is/are* rich in vitamin C.
30. That book on political parties *is/are* interesting.
31. All the food *has/have* been eaten.
32. Gulliver's Travels *is/are* a well-known children's book.
33. Ten minutes *was/were* not enough to translate the text.
34. The girl together with her parents *was/were* sitting in the room.
35. None of the TV programmes *is/are* worth watching tonight.
36. The police *have/has* arrested the thieves.

37. *Was/were* the news interesting yesterday?
38. Strawberries and cream *is/are* my favourite dessert.

Exercise 2. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. My dog, as well as my cats, *like/likes* cat food.
2. Growing flowers *is/are* her hobby.
3. The book that I got from my parents *was/were* very interesting.
4. The books I bought last week *was/were* very expensive.
5. Every man, woman, and child *is/are* protected under the law.
6. The professor and the student *agrees/agree* on that point.
7. Almost every professor and student at the university *approves/approve* of the choice of Dr. Brown as the new president.
8. Each girl and boy in the sixth-grade class *has/have* to do a science project.
9. Tomatoes *is/are* easy to grow.
10. Growing tomatoes *is/are* especially easy in hot climates.
11. Ann had a hard time when she was coming home from the supermarket because the bag of groceries *was/were* too heavy for her to carry.
12. Why *was/were* Tom and Alex late for the meeting?
13. *Is/Are* having the responsibility for taking care of pets good for young children?
14. Some of the fruit in this bowl *is/are* rotten.
15. Most of the books *is/are* interesting.
16. Half of the students in the class *is/are* from Arabic-speaking countries.
17. Half of this money *is/are* yours.
18. A lot of clothing in those stores *is/are* on sale this week.
19. One of my best friends *is/are* coming to visit me next week.

20. Each boy in the class *has/have* his own notebook.
21. Each of the boys in the class *has/have* his own notebook.
22. Every one of the students *is/are* required to take the final test.
23. None of the animals at the zoo *is/are* free to roam. All of them *is/are* in enclosures.
24. A number of students *is/are* absent today.
25. The number of employees in my company *is/are* approximately ten thousand.
26. One of the chief materials in bones and teeth *is/are* calcium.
27. Why *was/were* some of the students excused from the examination?
28. Why *was/were* one of the students excused from the examination?
29. Seventy-five percent of the furniture *is/are* secondhand.
30. Three-fourths of the furniture *is/are* secondhand.
31. Fifty per cent of the pollution in this river *comes/come* from industrial waste.
32. Ninety per cent of the students *is/are* present at the lecture.
33. Oil and water *does/do* not mix.
34. The majority of people interviewed *prefers/prefer* TV to radio.
35. The present whereabouts of the manuscript *is/are* unknown.
36. Both the newspaper and the magazine *is/are* in the desk drawer.
37. She or her sister *is/are* going to bring my books tomorrow morning.
38. The teacher, as well as the students, *is/are* willing to participate in the contest.

Exercise 3. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. How many wars do you suppose there *has/have* been in the history of the world?
2. The United Nations *is/are* an international organization.
3. Seven kilometres *is/are* too far for me to run.
4. Six and six *is/are* twelve.
5. The English *is/are* concerned about global warming.
6. Eight hours of sleep *is/are* enough.
7. The United States *has/have* a population of around 300 million.
8. The news about his brother *is/are* surprising.
9. The *New York Times* *is/are* an established and respected newspaper.
10. Fifty minutes *is/are* the maximum length of time allowed for the exam.
11. Twenty dollars *is/are* an unreasonable price for the necklace.
12. The police *is/are* prepared in case there is a riot.
13. The French *is/are* proud, independent people.
14. French *is/are* not my native language.
15. Many Japanese *commutes/commute* to their places of work.
16. The poor *is/are* helped by government programmes.
17. Both boys and girls *needs/need* to learn how to do housecleaning.
18. Two hours of homework per day *is/are* too much for elementary school children.
19. Having good computer skills *is/are* necessary if you want to get a high-paying job.
20. One of the biggest problems in the world today *is/are* the lack of clean, fresh drinking water for significant numbers of people.

21. Chinese *has/have* more than fifty thousand written characters.
22. About two-thirds of the Vietnamese *works/work* in agriculture.
23. What *is/are* the population of Canada?
24. Everybody in my family *enjoys/enjoy* music and reading.
25. Some of the movies these days *contains/contain* too much violence.
26. There *is/are* a lot of sheep in the field.
27. Sensitivity to other people's feelings *makes/make* her a kind person.
28. An orange and black bird *is/are* sitting in that tree.
29. An orange bird and a black bird *is/are* sitting in that tree.
30. The insurance rates on our car *is/are* high because we live in a city.
31. His politics *is/are* extreme.
32. A list of foreign words, including foreign proper names, *is/are* at the end of the book.
33. A car with poor brakes and no brake lights *is/are* dangerous.
34. *Is/Are* January and February the coldest months of the year in the Northern Hemisphere?
35. Four hours of skiing *provides/provide* plenty of exercise.
36. All the windows in our house *was/were* broken in the earthquake.
37. One of the most common names for dogs in the United States *is/are Rover*.
38. The number of passengers affected by the delays *was/were* great.

Exercise 4. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. A number of planes *was/were* delayed due to the snowstorm in Denver.
2. Approximately 76 percent of all the data in computers around the world *is/are* in English.
3. None of the houses *has/have* escaped damage.
4. Half of the pizzas *is/are* vegetarian.
5. Half of the pizza *is/are* for you and half *is/are* for me.
6. The number of desks in that classroom *is/are* thirty-five.
7. A number of stores *is/are* closed today because of the holiday.
8. Nearly 90 percent of the people in our town always *votes/vote* in local elections.
9. Some of the most important books for my report *is/are* not available in the school library.
10. What places in the world *has/have* no snakes?
11. Politics *is/are* a constant source of interest to me.
12. The news on the radio and TV stations *confirms/confirm* that a serious storm is approaching our city.
13. Most of the movie *is/are* funny.
14. *Does/Do* all of the students have their books?
15. *Does/Do* all of this homework have to be finished by tomorrow?
16. Half of the chairs *is/are* secondhand.
17. Half of the furniture *is/are* secondhand.
18. The Philippines *consists/consist* of more than 7,000 islands.
19. Eating vegetables *is/are* good for you.
20. Every girl and boy *is/are* in the classroom.
21. Every man, woman and child *needs/need* love.
22. Each book and magazine *is/are* listed in the bibliography.
23. Getting to know students from all over the world *is/are* one of the best parts of my job.

24. Each of those books *is/are* yours.
25. Each of us *was/were* afraid of the sound of his name.
26. Neither his father nor his mother *was/were* like other people.
27. It was dark and quiet. Neither moon nor stars *was/were* visible.
28. He and I *has/have* nothing in common.
29. She is one of the few women who *has/have* climbed Everest.
30. The biggest time-waster in our office *is/are* meetings.
31. What we need *is/are* a few bright young engineers.
32. A lot of the equipment *is/are* new.
33. Most of the book *is/are* interesting.
34. The fruit at these markets *is/are* cheap.
35. Two-thirds of the money *is/are* mine.
36. Two-thirds of the boys *is/are* here.
37. A number of students *was/were* late for class.
38. Some of the apples in that bowl *is/are* rotten.

Exercise 5. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. Harrods *is/are* a department store.
2. The United Nations *has/have* its headquarters in New York City.
3. Ten dollars *is/are* too much to pay.
4. Physics *seeks/seek* to understand the mysteries of the physical world.
5. Statistics *is/are* a branch of mathematics.
6. The statistics in that report on oil production *is/are* incorrect.
7. The blind *wants/want* the rest of us to treat them the same we treat everyone else.
8. The news about the economy *was/were* disappointing.

9. Each car, truck and motorcycle *is/are* stopped at the border by customs officials.
10. Almost two-thirds of the land in the southwestern areas of the country *is/are* unsuitable for farmers.
11. More than one person *was/were* involved in this robbery.
12. Studying a foreign language often *leads/lead* students to learn about the culture of the countries where it is spoken.
13. Most of the mountain peaks in the Himalayan Range *is/are* covered with snow.
14. Seventy-five percent of the people in New York City *lives/live* in upstairs apartments.
15. A lot of that movie *is/are* full of violence.
16. A large part of our town *has/have* been badly damaged by a big fire.
17. Most of the house *was/were* destroyed by the fire.
18. Every one of the houses *has/have* serious damage.
19. None of these newspapers *was/were* published more often than twice a week.
20. The police *is/are* coming to investigate the accident.
21. There *has/have* been some encouraging news about pandas in recent years.
22. In recent years, a number of students *has/have* participated in language programs abroad.
23. To be the busy wife of a busy man, to be the mother of many children *was/were*, to his thinking, the highest lot of a woman.
24. Hers *was/were* a large family.
25. There *is/are* a number of things, Martin, that you don't understand.
26. A good knowledge of three languages *is/are* necessary for this job.
27. None of my friends *is/are* interested in English literature.

28. Half of my friends *lives/live* abroad.
29. The number of students who knew the answer to the last question *was/were* very low.
30. Every one of the boys and girls at school *knows/know* what to do if the fire alarm rings.
31. *Isn't/Aren't* sugar and pineapple the leading crops in Hawaii now?
32. The chair, as well as the tables, *is/are* made of wood.
33. The chairs, as well as the table, *is/are* made of wood.
34. My cousin, along with my aunt and uncle, *works/work* in my grandpa's hardware store.
35. Three-fourths of the pizza *has/have* already been eaten.
36. Three-fourths of the pizzas *has/have* already been eaten.
37. A woman and her child *is/are* waiting to see Dr. Chang.
38. What percentage of the people in the world *is/are* illiterate?

Exercise 6. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. More people *lives/live* in Asia than in any other continent.
2. Many leading members of the opposition party *has/have* criticized the delay.
3. Neither of the French athletes *has/have* won this year.
4. None of the equipment *appears/appear* to be damaged.
5. Every boy and girl *takes/take* part in the activity.
6. Each child *has/have* drawn a picture.
7. The children *has/have* each drawn a picture.
8. Everybody *was/were* glad to see Mary.
9. "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" *was/were* written when Dickens was 24.
10. Nobody *has/have* their fridges repaired any more, they can't afford it.
11. Everybody *is/are* doing what they think they're supposed to do.

12. There *was/were* a young woman and two children in the yard.
13. Here *is/are* Tom and James.
14. Where you found them *does/do* not concern us.
15. How you persuaded them *is/are* beyond my understanding.
16. "Fathers and Sons" *is/are* the most popular of Turgenev's novels.
17. I don't know the boys who *lives/live* next door.
18. Everybody *is/are* clever nowadays.
19. "Great Expectations" by Dickens *was/were* published in 1860.
20. She is supposed to have all the misfortunes and all the virtues to which humanity *is/are* subject.
21. There *is/are* many a true word spoken in jest.
22. A large number of problems *is/are* caused by poverty.
23. The majority of criminals *is/are* non-violent.
24. The unemployment statistics *is/are* disturbing.
25. The bread and butter *was/were* wholesome food.
26. The bread and the butter *is/are* on the table.
27. A black and white kitten *was/were* lying on the sofa.
28. In modern hotels hot and cold water *is/are* supplied in every room.
29. Neither you nor I *am/are* ready for the trip.
30. The manager more than the members of the firm *is/are* responsible for the present situation.
31. My parents as well as my sister *is/are* teachers.
32. A woman with her children *was/were* sitting under the tree.
33. A number of cars *was/were* parked in front of the building.
34. The variety of questions *was/were* surprising.
35. Statistics in this article *is/are* not quite correct.
36. Many a good man *has/have* been destroyed by drink.
37. Two billion (people) *is/are* expected to watch the game.
38. Two billion (dollars) *was/were* withdrawn from the account.

Exercise 7. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. There *was/were* just a hundred of them there.
2. They each *has/have* their own email address.
3. I bought a dozen eggs and every one of them *was/were* bad.
4. The woman with all her children *was/were* waiting for the bus.
5. One hundred dollars *is/are* a lot of money.
6. None of us *knows/know* how to treat her.
7. Dollars *is/are* convertible throughout the world.
8. My brother, accompanied by his friend, *is/are* playing football.
9. A man with a dog in his arm *was/were* crossing the street.
10. Neither we nor our neighbour *has/have* the key of the letterbox.
11. The majority of people *is/are* concerned about global warming.
12. Neither of the restaurants *is/are* cheap.
13. All *is/are* dancing.
14. To work and to earn money *is/are* his only pleasure.
15. What *is/are* your politics?
16. Economics *is/are* impossible for me to understand.
17. Why *is/are* the police standing over there right now?
18. The books in my office *is/are* very valuable to me.
19. A lot of people in my class *works/work* during the day and *attends/attend* class in the evening.
20. Many of the satellites orbiting the earth *is/are* used for communications.
21. The news about the long-range effects of air pollution on the development of children's lungs *is/are* disturbing.
22. While I was in Paris, some of the best food I found *was/were* not at the well-known eating places but in small out-of-the-way cafes.

23. Most of the movie *takes/take* place in Paris.
24. Writing compositions *is/are* difficult for me.
25. A number of students in my class *is/are* from Mexico.
26. These new sunglasses *is/are* made of glass or plastic or anything like that.
27. *Is/Are* Statistics more difficult than Economics?
28. I watched “Dances with Wolves” which *wasn’t/weren’t* about dancing at all.
29. *Was/Were* “Lord of the Flies” the name of the book we had to read last year?
30. My new pair of jeans *has/have* pockets on the side of the legs.
31. What they are doing in Parliament *doesn’t/don’t* interest me.
32. “The Simpsons” *is/are* the name of a television programme.
33. “Romeo and Juliet” *was/were* written by Shakespeare.
34. Twenty-five kilos *is/are* a lot to carry by yourself, don’t you think?
35. Billy as well as all his friends *is/are* going camping this weekend.
36. Diabetes *has/have* become a more common disease, mainly because of the way we eat.
37. The conductor and the orchestra *has/have* had very little time to rehearse for the concert.
38. Security is just something that everybody *has/have* to go through in airports nowadays.

Exercise 8. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. Mankind *has/have* marvelled at diamonds for at least 2 000 years.
2. Having passed through destructive wars, mankind *has/have* come to the need for mutual understanding and compromise.

3. The family *was/were* still at table, but they had finished breakfast.
4. My family *hopes/hope* that we can go on holiday this summer.
5. Her family *was/were* of a delicate constitution.
6. All the family *was/were* at breakfast, father, mother and seven children.
7. The family *is/are* decorating the house.
8. The family *is/are* all gathering here for Christmas.
9. There *was/were* a crowd of soldiers along the fence.
10. The loving couple *was/were* no longer happy.
11. The team *is/are* not playing very well this season.
12. The team really *wants/want* to win the cup this season.
13. A football team *has/have* eleven players, including the captain.
14. The Spanish team *is/are* playing brilliantly.
15. A group of men *was/were* standing guarded by soldiers.
16. Cattle *is/are* domestic animals.
17. Cattle *was/were* first domesticated in Neolithic times.
18. The cattle *has/have* got through the fence by the main road.
19. The infantry *was/were* guarding the bridge.
20. The committee usually *raises/raise* their hands to vote “yes”.
21. The planning committee *has/have* all been given individual copies of the agenda for the meeting.
22. The committee doesn't/don't want to comment at the moment.
23. The committee *has/have* decided to close this restaurant.
24. The committee *meets/meet* every Thursday.
25. The school *is/are* to close next year.
26. The whole class *was/were* told to stay behind after school.
27. All the local clergy *was/were* asked to attend the ceremony.

28. The audience *is/are* usually in their seats before the play starts.
29. The audience *was/were* clapping for ten minutes.
30. The police *has/have* no idea how the robbers got into the bank.
31. The faculty *presents/present* papers at different conferences.
32. All staff *is/are* expected to attend the meeting tomorrow afternoon.
33. The staff *is/are* working under pressure now.
34. The government *is/are* planning to raise taxes.
35. The government *is/are* undecided about this matter.
36. The army *is/are* using unmanned aircraft to survey the area.
37. The management *is/are* considering closing the factory.
38. The management *is/are* confident about future growth.

Exercise 9. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. An average family *consists/consist* of four people.
2. My family *has/have* never been able to agree.
3. My wife's family always *has/have* a big get-together with a barbecue on July 4th.
4. The family cheerfully *argues/argue* among themselves at the dinner table, even with guests present.
5. The team *is/are* eating with their families tonight.
6. Every afternoon the baseball team *follows/follow* its coach out to the hot field for practice.
7. This year's basketball team *includes/include* three players who *is/are* over six feet tall.
8. After a game the team *changes/change* out of their uniforms.
9. Our staff *meets/meet* on Tuesday mornings to discuss customer complaints.

10. Our staff *works/work* hard to meet their goals and deadlines.
11. Every year the English class *writes/write* reports on their summer holidays.
12. Today her class *is/are* taking its first exam.
13. The jury *has/have* returned a verdict of guilty.
14. The jury *agrees/agree* that the state prosecutors did not provide enough evidence, so its verdict is not guilty.
15. The flute ensemble *is/are* turning their instruments.
16. The flute ensemble *is/are* playing at the Music Festival.
17. The pack of dogs *was/were* running in different directions.
18. The town council *has/have* approved the plan to create a new park.
19. The company *has/have* released its annual report.
20. In the presence of a predator, the herd *separates/separate* and *bolts/bolt* in different directions.
21. The herd *is/are* grazing quietly in the meadow.
22. A pair of teenage boys *is/are* smoking cigarettes in the hall.
23. The happy pair *is/are* going abroad for their honeymoon.
24. The public *demands/demand* an apology from the governor, who they believe has been cheating them all these years.
25. The public *was/were* deceived by the newspapers.
26. Each committee *has/have* elected its own president.
27. The committee *has/have* met four times this month to review their previous decisions.
28. The mob *was/were* preparing to storm the building.
29. Half the audience *was/were* asleep by the interval.
30. The school choir *practises/practise* every Monday after lunchtime.
31. The choir *has/have* thrown me out because they say I can't sing.
32. Our little group *is/are* complete again.

33. The BBC *is/are* planning to use the new satellite next month.
34. The crew *was/were* exhausted because they had been working all night.
35. The crew *was/were* in a terrible plight by the time they reached the shore.
36. A local film crew *is/are* making a documentary about volcanoes.
37. The bank *closes/close* early on Fridays.
38. Our bank *is/are* always very friendly and helpful.

Exercise 10. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. We were at the head of the valley and below us we saw an old house. "This is where my family *lives/live*," he said.
2. His family *was/were* in the process of having tea when we arrived.
3. All the family *was/were* gathered to see the dog.
4. My family who *was/were* occupied each with their particular guest did not notice anything.
5. His family *was/were* of about the same social status as my own.
6. Do you know what the family *has/have* got into their heads about this business?
7. The police *has/have* known about him for years.
8. Everybody *says/say* that Swiss police *is/are* great at finding people.
9. The police *is/are* not fools. That man did not believe a word of what I said.
10. The public *doesn't/don't* think so.
11. The public *is/are* requested not to leave litter in these woods.

12. When he came the baseball team *was/were* practising on the school field.
13. The team *is/are* having baths at the moment and then *is/are* coming back here for tea.
14. The team *is/are* playing tomorrow morning.
15. The clergy *is/are* generally dressed in black.
16. The Government *has/have* discussed the matter for a long time but they have shown no signs of reaching agreement.
17. The Government *has/gave* decided to pass the bill.
18. The company *has/have* found shelter from the rain in the village inn. They are going to have lunch there.
19. In the meantime, the young couple *was/were* to live in the old house.
20. That day the committee *was/were* to meet at her friend's house.
21. I had to find out whether the committee *was/were* competent enough to consider the project.
22. The committee *was/were* of the opinion that the matter should be dealt with at once.
23. Close by, a group of men *was/were* sitting. They kept the waiter busy with their orders.
24. A group of students *is/are* going on a tour to Slovakia in the summer.
25. The board *is/are* extraordinarily kind to you.
26. The board *is/are* going to consider your application at the next sitting.
27. There *was/were* a few little craft anchored in the harbour.
28. The staff *was/were* all gathered in the main office when I came.
29. His staff *was/were* very small. I don't know how he managed to do any business at all.

30. He was reserved concerning himself but a fluent speaker when politics *was/were* under discussion.
31. Politics *has/have* always interested me.
32. Ethics *is/are* a difficult study.
33. You've bought a nice car. Your money *is/are* well spent.
34. His advice *has/have* been always useful to me.
35. The ashes *is/are* still hot.
36. Do you know what the news *is/are*?
37. My trousers *is/are* being cleaned now.
38. There *is/are* important information in the letter.

Exercise 11. In the following sentences choose the appropriate verb.

1. High levels of pollution *causes/cause* damage to the respiratory tract.
2. A driver's license or credit card *is/are* required.
3. The boys accompanied by their teacher *is/are* planning a tour.
4. Neither the lab assistant nor the students *was/were* able to download the information.
5. Some of our luggage *was/were* lost.
6. None of his advice *makes/make* sense.
7. The new roads which the government *has/have* built *has/have* not reduced congestion.
8. Your friendship over the years and your support *has/have* meant a great deal to us.
9. The presence of certain bacteria in our bodies *is/are* one of the factors that determine our overall health.
10. A pack of wolves *is/are* approaching towards the herd of cattle.
11. The statistics *shows/show* that the candidate will win.
12. The jury *was/were* discussing their opinions of the trial.
13. The captain along with the sailors *was/were* drowned.

14. Hot dogs and cheeseburgers *is/are* my favourite foods.
15. A number of men *was/were* strongly opposed to the changes.
16. Ninety percent of the politicians *gives/give* the other ten percent a bad reputation.
17. The king along with his sons *is/are* visiting tomorrow.
18. A container of nuts and bolts *was/were* found in the cellar.
19. The dog with lots of fleas *is/are* very itchy.
20. Members of the town council *elects/elect* the new governor.
21. Either the measurement or the calculation *has/have* created a problem.
22. This research aims to gather additional data on bee behaviour, which *is/are* currently lacking.
23. A study on African countries shows/show that 80% of the people on this continent *lives/live* below the poverty line.
24. Alex, as well as his parents, *is/are* coming to the party.
25. This pair of trousers *is/are* ugly.
26. A flock of sheep always *moves/move* together.
27. The number of dancers coming to the party *is/are* twelve.
28. Eating healthy food *makes/make* you healthy.
29. A large percentage of older population *is/are* voting against her.
30. The decision made by the country's leaders after numerous meetings *was/were* definitely the right one.
31. Running my businesses *takes/take* up most of my time.
32. My boss, who is extremely kind to his employees, always *gives/give* helpful advice.
33. In my car *resides/reside* fifteen empty water bottles.
34. Each of the swimmers *was/were* standing on the platform ready for the race.
35. John and Kate *was/were* applying for the same teaching position.

36. There *was/were* only three milk cartons in the refrigerator.
37. A pride of lions *does/do* not attack a human unless provoked.
38. Anyone who ate the oysters *was/were* asked to visit the infirmary.

Exercise 12. Correct the mistakes if it is necessary.

1. Bacon and eggs have been the Sunday breakfast in our house for years.
2. According to the rules, none of the teachers have the right to make students stay after school.
3. Darts have always been a popular game in English pubs.
4. A woman with three children were waiting outside.
5. Nobody except her parents were willing to help.
6. Neither of King Henry's sons were born in France.
7. "Tom and Jerry" are a rather violent cartoon.
8. You can't hold a classical concert in the village hall; the acoustics is terrible.
9. Either the vase or the dish was a gift.
10. Is New York and Chicago the two largest cities in the USA?
11. The scissors in the sewing box needs sharpening.
12. The banks of the river is beautiful. Many an artist comes here.
13. The girls, along with their dogs, walk daily.
14. Every one of the students try hard.
15. Neither the teacher nor his students was there.
16. Mr. Brown, with his two sons, always win the trophy.
17. There have been some encouraging news about pandas in recent years.
18. The English speak with an accent that is different from the American accent.
19. More than one of the paintings was stolen.

20. Communication among family members play a key role.
21. Either the ribbon or the bow need to be replaced.
22. Everyone works hard on this project.
23. Enough of the stew was spilled to make a stain.
24. Enough of the people was present to vote.
25. It is good service that make a restaurant great.
26. The daredevil among the teenagers scare most parents.
27. The dragon or the king wins the battle.
28. One of the files is missing.
29. The main concern of swimmers who like to snorkel and scuba dive in the islands are predatory fish.
30. None of the protesters was arrested.
31. A copy of the documents were found in the desk.
32. Enough of the evidence was shown to prove malice.
33. The islands in the Caribbean is very busy during the height of the tourist season.
34. Neither my garden nor my flowers grows in December.
35. The walls and the window need washing.
36. Each manager in the district opens the store at different hours.
37. Sausage and beans don't cost very much.
38. Cards are more than a game for some people.

Exercise 13. Correct the mistakes if it is necessary.

1. Anyone travelling to Ireland has a long trip ahead.
2. The profit from owning your own car dealership and credit bureau make you think twice before investing.
3. Enthusiasm and hard work result in success.
4. Either the wind or the waves makes that sound.
5. Animals who live in that zoo disappears very often.
6. Fish and chips are one of the most common English dishes.

7. What he'd really like us to buy him for his birthday are some new Nike trainers.
8. Rickets is a disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin D.
9. Relaxation, along with good food, have improved her health.
10. Gin and tonic is a popular drink.
11. The chief geologists or their assistant are due to arrive tonight.
12. The extremely rich tends to live in one of the suburbs in the hills above the town.
13. The opossum and the kangaroo are members of the same family of mammals.
14. Mum and Dad was hoping that you would join them in the evening.
15. Both the doctor and the surgeon has advised me to have my gall bladder out.
16. Hitchcock's film "The Birds" is based on a story by Daphne du Maurier.
17. Either my brother or my parents is going to bring the sleeping bags.
18. German measles is a particularly dangerous illness for pregnant women.
19. The family has agreed that the funeral should be held in Ireland.
20. The United Nations is in disagreement on this issue.
21. The sick and elderly were helped out of the building.
22. A new pair of shoes don't cost much.
23. Half of his students doesn't understand a word he says.
24. The army was finally defeated in the autumn.
25. A good knowledge of three languages are necessary for this job.
26. She doesn't care what either of her parents say.
27. The majority of criminals are non-violent.

28. Half of my friends lives abroad.
29. She's one of the few women who has climbed Everest.
30. Your toast and marmalade are on the table.
31. Mathematics make me nervous.
32. Statistics is useful in language testing.
33. What is your politics?
34. The biggest timewaster in our office are meetings.
35. What we need are a few bright young engineers.
36. Neither of my sisters are married.
37. A large number of problems are caused by poverty.
38. The unemployment statistics is disturbing.

Exercise 14. Complete each sentence with an appropriate present simple form (singular or plural) of the verb in brackets. If both singular and plural forms are possible, give both.

1. A large number of police offices ... present at the demonstration in case of trouble. (be)
2. At present 10,000 kilometres ... the longest walking competition hold in Olympics. (be)
3. That band ... always had a reputation for performing better in the studio than live. (have)
4. Either the twins or John, the eldest brother, ... going to make a speech at the Golden Wedding party. (be)
5. My brother thinks that economics ... really interesting. I disagree. (be)
6. Both my brother and sister ... lived in this town all their lives. (have)
7. Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding ... definitely still the favourite of many British people. (be)
8. Whoever had contact with the patient ... to be found and vaccinated against polio. (have)
9. The man, in addition to his daughter, ... here. (live)

10. The board ... decided to appoint a new director. (have)
11. Mumps ... a disease usually caught by children. (be)
12. Finding a job where you can learn new skills ... a lot of effort. (take)
13. The pair of shoes on the floor ... mine. (be)
14. The pair ... planning a trip to India together. (be)
15. In modern hotels hot and cold water ... supplied in every room. (be)
16. I think the media ... responsible for the problem. (be)
17. What criteria ... used for assessing a student's ability? (be)
18. Watching TV ... become his favourite pastime. (have)
19. A couple of people ... objected to the proposal. (have)
20. The rock group ... been on tour for months. (have)
Northern Lights ... a young-adult fantasy novel by Philip Pullman. (be)
21. The petrol station across the road from the new shops ... just cut its prices. (have)
22. Why ... there a shortage of certified school teachers at the present time? (be)
23. By law, every man, woman, and child ... the right to free speech. It is guaranteed in our constitution. (have)
24. Recently there ... been times when I have seriously considered dropping out of school. (have)
25. 'Daps' ... the word used in the south-west of the country for sports shoes. (be)
26. None of my friends ... been able to solve the puzzle in last week's newspaper. (have)
27. This pair of binoculars ... been in this drawer for as long as I can remember. (have)
28. Where ... those kitchen scales gone? (have)
29. Athletics ... popular pastime in many countries. (be)

30. A team of inspectors ... visiting the prison tomorrow afternoon. (be)
31. She's one of those people who ... just sitting in the sun on holiday. (love)
32. The poor ... shelter from the cold. (need)
33. What I say and what I think ... my own affair. (be)
34. There ... been a lot of problems with the colour printer lately. (have)
35. Our latest data ... more firms are hoping to expand in the near future. (show)
36. The firm's headquarters ... in London. (be)
37. It is likely that a new pair of shoes ... more happiness to a child than a new car brings to a grown-up. (bring)
38. A recent survey shows that around 10% of all cars ... dangerous to drive. (be)

4. Terminology

Agreement the relationship between a subject and its verb, or between a number or determiner and its noun. Also called **concord**.

Clause a group of words containing a verb.

Collective noun a noun that refers to a group of people and things.

Countable noun a noun that can be singular or plural.

Declarative sentence a sentence in the form of a simple statement.

Finite verb a finite verb form that shows a particular tense, person and number.

Plural noun a noun that is only used in the plural form.

Predicate a part of a sentence containing a verb that makes a statement about the subject of the verb.

Singular noun a noun typically used in the singular form.

Subject a noun phrase that usually comes before a verb and agrees with the verb in person and number.

Uncountable noun a noun that refers to a general kind of thing rather than to an individual item, and so has only one form.

5. Appendix 1

SN – singular noun	CoN – coordinated noun (x and y)	N – noun	SV – singular verb
PN – plural noun	UN – uncountable noun	MN – main noun	PV – plural verb
PP – plural pronoun	CN – countable noun	V – verb	

Singular verb

1. names and titles ending in -s (countries, newspapers, books, films...)	At this time of the year <u>the Netherlands</u> is one hour ahead of the UK.
2. every, each + SN or CoN	<u>Every room</u> looks over the harbour.
3. any of, none of, the majority of, a lot of, most of, plenty of, all (of), some (of) + UN/SN	<u>All the furniture</u> was destroyed in the fire. <u>Some of the book</u> is good.
4. everyone, everybody, everything (any-, some-, no-)	<u>Everyone</u> thinks that he should be given the job.
5. the number of (число) + N the variety of (разнообразие) + N	<u>The number of books</u> in the library has risen to over five million.
6. subject = clause	<u>Whoever took them</u> remains a mystery.
7. one of + PN/PP	<u>One of the reasons</u> I took the job was that I could work from home.
8. measurement, amount, quantity	Only <u>three metres</u> separates the runners in first and second places.
9. subject = gerund	<u>Watching</u> old movies is fun.
10. subject = infinitive (+ infinitive)	<u>To love and to be loved</u> was all he wanted.

11. arithmetic expressions (usually)	<u>Two and two</u> is four.
12. many a + noun	<u>Many a lie</u> has been told.
13. subject = 2 items connected by with or together with	<u>A woman with a child</u> on the second floor is screaming and waving .

Appendix 2

Plural verb

1. a/the majority of, a number of, a variety of, a lot of, plenty of, all (of), some (of) + PN/PP	<u>A number of refugees</u> have been turned back at the border.
2. PN	The company's <u>earnings</u> have increased for the last five years.
3. the + adjective	<u>The poor</u> have many problems.

Appendix 3

Singular/plural verb

1. complex subject	V ↔ MN (in the subject)	<u>The only excuse that he gave for his actions</u> was that he was tired.
2. subject = what-clause	SV – if the following MN is singular PV – if the following MN is plural (* or SV – informal)	<u>What worries us</u> is the poor selection <i>process</i> . <u>What is needed</u> are additional <i>resources</i> . (or ... needed is...)

3. collective nouns	SV – “a whole unit” PV – “collection of individuals” * SV – in formal contexts	<u>The council</u> has/have postponed a decision on the new road.
4. any of, each of, either of, neither of, none of + PN/PP	SV (careful written English) PV (informal English)	I don’t think <u>any of them</u> knows/know where the money is hidden.
5. subject = 2 or more items joined by and	PV (usually) SV/PV – if we think of them as making up a single item	<u>Tom and Ann</u> are moving back to Australia. <u>The lorry, its cargo and passengers</u> weighs around 35 tons. (or ... weigh)
6. subject = 2 or more items joined by (either) ... or ...or (neither) ... nor	SV – last item is singular (* in informal English – PV) PV – last item is plural SV/PV – last item is singular and previous item is plural	<u>Either the station or the cinema</u> is a good place to meet (or ...are – informal) <u>The President or his representatives</u> are to attend the meeting. <u>Either the teachers or the principal</u> is/are to blame for the accident.
7. subject = 2 items joined by as well as	SV – first item is singular PV – first item is plural	<u>The Volga as well as its affluences</u> is very picturesque.
8. one of + PN/PP + who	SV/PV (more grammatical)	He’s <u>one of those teachers who</u> insist/insists on pupils sitting silently in class.

9. there + be/have	SV – with SN/UN PV – with PN * in informal speech we often use a shortened singular form of be or have (there's) with PN	Over the last few years there have been many <u>improvements</u> in car safety. There's been lots of good films on lately. (or ... There've been ...)
10. PN data and media	SV (usually) PV – in formal contexts	All the <u>data</u> is available for public inspection. (or ... are available...)
11. UN ending in –s:	SV – academic subject PV – general use	<u>Statistics</u> was always my worst subject. <u>Statistics</u> are able to prove anything you want them to. (= numerical information)
12. subject = who, what (in questions)	SV PV – if the question refers to more than 1 person	<u>Who</u> is this man? <u>Who</u> are with him?
13. all	SV – “bcē” PV – “bce”	<u>All</u> is well that ends well. <u>All</u> were ready by that time.
14. subject = who, which, that	SV – if the item before is singular PV – if the item before is plural	Near them was an <u>old man</u> who was watching the dancing. Near them were the <u>old people</u> who were watching the dancing.

15. some of + SN some of + PN	SV PV	Some of the book is good. Some of the books are good.
16. half + UN half + CN	SV PV	<u>Half of the pie</u> was eaten yesterday. <u>Half of his students</u> are absent today.
17. one in (three), one out of (five) + PN	SV/PV	<u>One in three new cars</u> breaks/break down in the first year.
18. more than one + SN more than one + of + PN	SV PV	<u>More than one editor</u> is working on that project. <u>More than one of the people</u> are going.

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