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Subject/verb agreement exercises for high school students

The subject-verb chord may be the most tested grammatical rule on SAT. Therefore, just by mastering this rule and its applications, you will be well on your way to achieving a ridiculously good score on SAT writing. Although the rule itself is relatively simple, the issues associated with it can be difficult and somewhat delicate. In this article we will teach you to become a master of all things subject-verb agreement on SAT. In this post I'll do the following: Give you a clear understanding of the subject-verb agreement. Explain why and how question-and-answer questions about SAT can be tricky. Offer general strategies that can help you correctly answer question-and-answer agreements. Give yourself practical questions so you can test what you've learned. Review: What is a topic? Simply, a subject is the name that corresponds to a verb in a sentence. In a sentence where there is an action, the subject is the name that makes the action. Here's an example: Justin saved the world. Justin is the subject because he did the economy. In a sentence where there is a description, usually using a form of the verb being, the subject is the name that is described. Consider this beautifully written sentence: Justin is surprisingly humble. Justin is the subject because he is the person who is surprisingly humble. Now that we have a basic understanding of a subject, let's define this ubiquitous rule of SAT grammar. What is the subject-verb agreement? The subject-verb agreement is a rule that all subjects must agree with their verbs in numbers. Singular subjects take singular verbs. Plural subjects take plural verbs. Most subject-verb chord questions on SAT deal with forms of verb in the singular form of the third person (he/she/it/one) and plural forms in the third person (them). In today's perfect verbal times, the singular forms of third-person verb end with an s. Third-person plural verb forms do not. Let's take an example of a sentence to give you a better understanding of this rule: the famous chef cooks lobster and foie gras. This phrase probably already sounds wrong to your ear, but we'll break down exactly why. The subject of this sentence is chief. Obviously, because we speak only of one leader, the subject is singular. Therefore, the verb must be in the singular form. However, cook is the plural form in the third person of the verb so that sentence is incorrect. Here's how the sentence should read: The famous chef cooks lobster and Fat. Here's another basic example: gymnasts perform incredible feats of strength. In the sentence above, the subject is gymnasts because they do the performance. Gymnasts is plural so the verb must be in plural form. However, performs is in singular form. This is the corrected sentence: The gymnasts perform incredible feats of de de This rule is relatively basic and easy to understand, isn't it? Some of you may think that all the word-to-word chord errors on the SAT will be as easy to detect as they were in the sample sentences above. However, in the traditional sat way, the phrases on the SAT are intentionally misleading and the issues related to the subject-verb agreement can be quite difficult. The questions in the subject-word agreement may mislead you why are these issues sensitive? In general, questions related to the subject-verb agreement on the SAT can be difficult because the subject is generally not placed directly in front of the verb. This problem appears in two ways: interrupt sentences and reverse sentences where the subject follows the verb. Common trap #1: Interrupting sentences interrupting sentences are phrases that separate the subject from the verb. Such sentences make it more difficult to locate the subject and determine whether the verb should be singular or plural. There are specific types of interrupt phrases and we will take a closer look at some of them. You don't know need to know all the specific grammatical terms, but it's important to recognize how they influence subject-verb chord issues. Non-essential clauses Non-essential clauses are expressions that describe a name, often the subject of a question of agreement on the verb object on the SAT. Non-essential clauses are surrounded by commas. These clauses can be deleted without creating grammatical errors or changes in the direction of a sentence. Take, for example, this sentence: My doctor, who is very hostile, spoke to me for less than a minute. The expression in bold is a non-essential clause. It is separated by commas and the removal of the clause does not create error or change the meaning of the sentence. The term is only used to provide descriptive information on the subject. See: My doctor, who is very hostile, spoke to me for less than a minute. A non-essential clause often begins with a relative pronoun (who, who, including, or where), but it is not in a sentence known as appositive. An application functions as a non-essential clause, but it has no verb. Here is an example: my doctor, a very hostile man, spoke to me for less than a minute. Again, the phrase provides information about the doctor, but it can be deleted and will not create any errors or change the meaning of the sentence. So how will knowing these phrases help you correctly answer the SAT's questions related to the subject-verb agreement? I can explain. Non-essential and appositive clauses on the On the SAT, these phrases will be placed between subjects and verbs to make you think that a subject is singular or plural. Look at this example of a poorly written sentence in which I emphasized the subject and bold the verb: My math teacher, who is extremely demanding and shouts to all students, give too much homework. Lla Lla is singular and the verb is in plural form. However, there is a non-essential clause separating the subject from the verb, so it is more difficult to locate the error in the subject-verb agreement. In addition, on the SAT, there will often be a plural name in the non-essential clause placed right next to the verb in such a sentence. Many testers will mistakenly assume that students is the topic, especially if you read the question quickly in one go. Here is the corrected version of the sentence above: My math teacher, who is extremely demanding and shouts to all students, gives too much homework. So how do you avoid falling into that common trap that the SAT is going to put for you? Strategy For these types of questions, always cross appositives and non-essential clauses. This will make it easier to notice any problems with the subject-verb agreement. The resulting sentence must be grammatically correct. Let's do it with the poorly written version of our previous example: My math teacher, who is extremely demanding and shouts at all students, give too much homework. Crossing the non-essential clause leaves us with My math teacher giving too much homework. The subject-verb chord error in this sentence is easy to spot. Here is another type of interruption sentence, probably the most common on sat: the prepstional sentence. Prepositional phrases Quick review: prepositional sentence begins with a preposition. Prepositions provide additional details about names and often answer Where? questions, When?, or provide descriptive information. Here is a table showing examples of commonly used prepositions: On SAT, prepositional phrases are often inserted between subjects and verbs to make errors in the subject-verb chord less visible. Take a look at this poorly written sentence with the prepositional sentence highlighted: Changes to the new and improved sat will be implemented soon. The subject of the sentence is changes and the prepositional expression provides descriptive information about the changes. Because the subject is plural, the verb must be in plural form. Once again, notice how the SAT can fool you by putting a singular name, SAT, just before the verb, is. If you listen, you may fall prey to this trap. Here is the corrected version of the sentence: Changes for the new and improved SAT will be implemented soon. The approach you should take with sentences that contain a prepositional sentence is very similar to the one you should use with non-sentence clauses and appositives. My ghost writer. He knows his SAT grammar. Cross the prepositional sentence and the resulting sentence must be grammatically correct. In addition, this will make it easier for you to identify the subject and ensure that the subject and the verb agree. The subject will never be contained in a prepositional sentence. Let's use the cross-out method with the sentence above incorrectly written: The changes for the new and improved SAT will be implemented soon. The subject-verb chord error is much more obvious. Hooray! Sentence interruption is not the only tactic the SAT uses to complicate question-and-answer issues. #2 common trap: Sometimes the subject will follow the verb From time to time, the normal order of the words of a sentence will be changed so that a prepositional sentence appears at the beginning of a sentence and the subject follows the verb. In these sentences, it can be difficult to identify the subject and determine if there is an error in the subject-verb agreement. Take, for example, the following sentence with the underlined prepositional sentence and the bold verb: On my forehead lies five unsightly buttons. We know that a subject cannot be contained in a prepositional sentence and that the subject must correspond to the verb. What makes the resident? The buttons. And on my forehead provides information on where the buttons are located. Because the subject is plural, the verb must be in plural form: On my forehead reside five unsightly buttons. The correctly written sentence may seem more awkward to you because the name front is singular and it is placed right next to the plural form of a verb. On that's why you should focus on the rules and not rely on what seems right. In rare cases, the verb passes in front of the subject but is not preceded by a preposition. What? How is that possible? Discover this sentence with the stressed subject and the bold verb: Eating hot cheetos is fun, but less fun is its consequences. In the sentence, what is less fun? The consequences. Therefore, consequences is the subject that corresponds to the verb. There is an error in the subject-verb agreement. The sentence should read like this: Eating hot cheetos is fun, but less fun are its consequences. The order of words has been changed, but this sentence says that The consequences are less amusing. So how do you approach the sentences in which the subject follows the verb? Strategy In these sentences where the subject follows the verb, it is enough to reorganize the sentence so that it follows the normal structure of the subject and then the verb. This will make it easier for you to spot errors in the subject-verb agreement. If you did this in the poorly written example above, you would be left with its consequences is less fun. The subject is right in front of the verb and the error is obvious. Application: Real SAT Example We have therefore established that subject-verb agreement issues can be because the subject is often not placed directly in front of the verb. Let's see how it goes with a singular verb when everyone is the subject. This is an example of a poorly written phrase using everyone as a subject: Each member of the team is athletic. Keep in mind that members and team are prepositional phrases. After removing the absurd phrases, the sentence reads: Everyone is athletic. Everyone is our subject, so the verb must be singular. This is the right version: Each member of the team is athletic. The word everyone implies that you refer to each thing individually. Think of the word everyone as implicitly indicating everyone. Here's an example of this rule: every person in each of my classes is smart. Although all students are intelligent, this sentence says that every student is intelligent. In addition, the use of the singular name person also indicates that the subject is singular and requires a singular verb. Remember that in each of my classes is a prepositional sentence. This is how the phrase should look like: Every person in each of my classes is intelligent. Gerunds When used as subjects -Singular A gerund is a verb that is used as a name and ends with ing. When a gerund is used as a subject, then the subject is singular. Look at this example: Remembering the names of all the Kardashian sisters are easy. To determine the subject, think about what is easy. Also, we know that of all the Kardashian sisters is a prepositional phrase that we can cross and will not contain the subject. Therefore, we get weeded with Remembering the names of all the Kardashian sisters is easy. Even though names are plural, names is not the topic and simply provides additional information about what we remember. The subject is Remembering, a gerund that requires a singular verb. So here's the corrected version: Remembering the names of all the Kardashian sisters is easy. Who is this? Application: Real SAT example It's time to take a look at a real question SAT subject-verb chord that includes one of these unique singular topics. The subject is the gerund storage, which is singular. Therefore, the verb must be increased and the answer is B. Also, because delays is singular and shares the same subject, you should know that any verb that corresponds to the same subject must be in singular form as well. Now that we've looked at various types of agree topic-verb, let's consider the strategies you can use on your SAT to help determine if you're meeting a topic-verb chord issue and make sure we're you answer the question correctly. Ready to go beyond reading about sat? Then you'll love the free five-day trial for our full SAT prep program. Designed and written by prepScholar SAT experts, our SAT program customizes your skill level into more than 40 sub-skills so you can focus your studies on what you get the most score gains. Click the button below to try it out! General Strategies for the subject-verb sat chord Look for errors in the subject-verb agreement When a verb is highlighted in either subsection (improving sentence, identifying the error, improving the paragraph), if a verb is highlighted, make sure there are no errors in the subject-verb agreement. Always identify the subject The two subjects of sentences and subjects of clauses must agree with their verbs. For each verb, find the name that corresponds to that specific verb. Then, determine whether this topic is singular or plural and make sure the subject and verb agree. The subject is never part of a prepositional sentence Know that the subject will not be part of a prepositional sentence. Most subject-verb chord questions on SAT separate a subject from a verb with a prepositional sentence. Cross Out Interrupt phrases The SAT tries to trick you into placing long sentences between the subject and the verb. Often, the number of the name closest to the verb does not correspond to the number of the subject. By crossing the interruption sentence, you will find it easier to identify the subject and determine if there is an error in the subject-verb agreement. Be able to recognize the common tricks Knowing the common tricks the SAT uses on issues that test your knowledge of the subject-verb agreement can be helpful. The more you know about these tricks, the faster you will be able to identify them and correctly answer the question-and-answer questions. Additional practice Hopefully at this point you fully understand the subject-verb agreement and how to correctly answer any subject-verb chord question that may appear on the SAT. I created practice problems to test you on what you learned. Don't forget to use the general strategies I mentioned above. If you're not

having fun, you're not doing it right. 1. Every summer in Los Angeles (A) the noise of children screaming (B) at the beach on a weekday indicate (C) that it is summer vacation (D). No errors (E) 2. The selfie, which is (A) a photograph taken (B) by many narcissistic people, is (C) extremely popular on various social networking sites (D). No errors (E) 3. An effective and helpful tutor (A) Exceptional Knowledge (B), responds to the needs (C) of its students and listens attentively. No errors (E) 4. An extremely careful analysis (A) of the writing samples shows (B) that creatives are more likely to write (C) rounded letters No errors (E) 5. Sports (A) such as basketball, football or baseball allows children (B) to learn teamwork (C) and develop coordination (D). No Error (E) Answers: 1.C, 2. E, 3. D, 4.B, 5.B What's Next? If you want to know everything that's being tested on the SAT Writing section, read our article on what's really on SAT Writing. After mastering the basic questions, consider the most difficult SAT writing questions. Finally, if you're aiming for an 800 on SAT Writing, find out how to get a perfect score from a perfect marker. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points? Check out our best-in-class ACT online preparation program. We guarantee your refund if you don't improve your ACT score by 4 points or more. Our program is fully online, and it personalizes what you study to your strengths and weaknesses. If you liked this writing and grammar lesson, you'll love our program. With more detailed lessons, you'll get thousands of practice problems organized by individual skills so you can learn most effectively. We will also give you a step-by-step program to follow so that you will never be confused about what to study next. Check out our free 5-day trial:

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