**Conventions 19: Subject / Verb Agreement**

**Sometimes when people see “and” or “or” (or even “nor”) in a sentence, they’re not sure whether to make the verb singular or plural.**

**For example . . .**

**The student and the teacher like / likes to read.**

**Either the students or the teacher like / likes to read.**

**In the first case, the “and” means that you should go with a plural verb,**

**“like.”**

**In the second case, the “or” means that you should match the verb to the**

**subject closest to it, the teacher, which means you need a singular**

**verb, “likes.”**

**Try these.**

**1. The dog and the cat like / likes to run.**

**2. Either the dog or the cat like / likes to run.**

**3. Either the dog or the cats like / likes to run.**

**4. My sister and my brothers read / reads a lot.**

**5. Neither my sister nor my brothers read / reads a lot.**

**6. Neither my brothers nor my sister read / reads a lot.**

**7. My friends and I walks / walk to school.**

* **“and” = “they”**
* **“or” = ignore what’s furthest from the verb**
* **“nor” = ignore what’s furthest from the verb**

**Try these.**

**1. The dog and the cat like / likes to run.**

**2. ~~Either the dog or~~ the cat like / likes to run.**

**3. ~~Either the dog or~~ the cats like / likes to run.**

**4. My sister and my brothers read / reads a lot.**

**5. ~~Neither my sister nor~~ my brothers**

**read / reads a lot.**

**6. Neither my brothers nor my sister**

**read / reads a lot.**

**7. My friends and I walks / walk to school.**

**8. Either my friends or I drives / drive to school.**

* **“and” = “they”**
* **“or” and “nor” = ignore what’s furthest from the verb**
* **intervening phrases (interrupting elements) = ignore**

**Try these.**

**1. The dogs and the cat like / likes to run.**

**2. Either the dogs or the cat like / likes to run.**

**3. The dogs, whenever not with the cat,**

**like / likes to run.**

**4. The cat, when not being chased by the dogs,**

**like / likes to run.**

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**Conventions 19: Subject / Verb Agreement**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conventions Workshop: Subject / Verb Agreement I**

**The student and the teacher like / likes to read.**

**~~Either the students or~~ the teacher like / likes to read.**

**If it’s AND, just say “THEY.” If it’s OR, you IGNORE the subject closest to the verb.**

**1. Both my parents and my sister like / likes to go to bed early.**

**2. ~~Either my parents or~~ my sister insist / insists on going to bed early.**

**3. Either my sister or my parents insist / insists on going to bed early.**

**4. Your friends and your mom / Mom read / reads a lot.**

**5. Your mom and your friends read / reads a lot.**

**6. Your mom or your friends like / likes to read.**

**7. Your friends or your mom like / likes to read.**

**8. Bill’s dad / Dad and his brothers go / goes to school with me.**

**9. Bill’s dad or his brothers go / goes to school with me.**

**10. Bill’s brothers or Bill go / goes to school with me.**

**11. Neither the chipmunk nor the squirrels is / are bothering us.**

**12. Neither the squirrels nor the chipmunk is / are bothering us.**

**13. The chipmunk and the squirrels is / are bothering us.**

**14. Either cake or cookies is / are fine for dessert.**

**15. Bob and Randy wants / want to have cookies.**

**16. Bob or Randy wants / want cake.**

**17. Neither jogging nor swimming interests / interest him.**

**18. Either cake or cookies is / are fine for dessert.**

**Directions: Circle the correct verb.**

1. **Either cake or cookies is / are fine for dessert.**
2. **Bob and Randy wants / want to have cookies.**
3. **Bob or Randy wants / want cake.**
4. **Neither jogging nor swimming interests / interest him.**
5. **Neither swimming nor outdoor sports interests / interest him.**
6. **Both swimming and sailing is / are difficult to truly master.**
7. **The hunter and the hounds is / are following the bear.**
8. **The hunter or the hounds is / are lost.**
9. **The hounds or the hunter is / are lost.**
10. **The book and the movie lacks / lack a compelling plot.**
11. **The book or the movie was / were written by the same person.**
12. **This book and those movies is / are too long.**
13. **These movies or that book is / are too long.**
14. **Our new teachers or our new principle / principal refuse / refuses to allow gum.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conventions Workshop: Subject / Verb Agreement III: Intervening Phrases**

**The student and the teacher (=THEY) like / likes to read.**

**~~Either the students or~~ the teacher like / likes to read.**

**If it’s AND, just say “THEY.” If it’s OR, you IGNORE the subject closest to the verb.**

**HERE’S SOMETHING NEW: When the sentence has an intervening phrase (remember those? unnecessary parts of a sentence, with commas before and after, sort of like parenthetical statements), ignore the intervening phrase to find the correct verb. Yep—just cross it out, then listen for the right verb. For example . . .**

**The teacher, ~~but not the students~~, READS daily.**

**The students, ~~along with the new teacher~~, GO to the cafeteria for lunch.**

**Directions: Cross out what you should ignore, then circle the correct verb.**

1. The team, including both pitchers, is / are outstanding.
2. The team and the pitchers is / are outstanding.
3. Neither the team nor the pitchers is / are outstanding.
4. Either the pitchers or the team is / are outstanding.
5. Rudy, as well as his cat, likes / like milk.
6. Rudy, but not his cats, likes / like milk.
7. Neither Rudy nor his cats likes / like milk.
8. Rudy and his cats likes / like milk.
9. Either his cats or Rudy like / likes milk.
10. The new student and her parents wants / want to meet the principal.
11. The new student or her parents wants / want to meet the principal.
12. The new student, but not her parents, wants / want to meet the principal.
13. The new student’s parents, but not the student, wants / want to meet the principal.
14. Neither the new student nor her parents wants / want to meet the principal.
15. Many young people, not including my cousin Sam, likes / like to snowboard.
16. Many young people and my cousin Sam likes / like to snowboard.
17. Write a sentence LIKE #16.
18. Write a sentence like #11.
19. Write a sentence with an intervening phrase (an interrupting element), like #15.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conventions 18: Subject / Verb Agreement**

Two subjects joined by “**and**”? Replace the subjects with “they,” then listen for the correct verb.

Example: My parents and my sister [THEY] ~~DECIDES~~ / DECIDE when to leave the house.

Two subjects joined by “**or**” or “nor”? Ignore the subject further from the verb, then listen.

Example: ~~My parents or~~ my sister DECIDES / ~~DECIDE~~ when to leave.

So . . . If it’s “**and**,” you say they; if it’s “**or**,” you ignore. (It rhymes! Say it a few times so it’ll stick.)

But there’s more. If your sentence has an interrupting element, like this one, the rule is different. Ignore the interrupting element in the sentence, then listen.

Example: The baskets, ~~not including that one~~, still ~~HAS~~ / HAVE to be loaded.

Directions: Circle the correct verb.

1. Either cake or cookies is / are fine for dessert.

2. Bob and Randy wants / want to have cookies.

3. Bob or Randy wants / want cake.

4. Bob, not including his friends, wants / want cake.

5. Neither jogging nor swimming interests / interest him.

6. Neither swimming nor outdoor sports interests / interest him.

7. Swimming, when not taking place in lakes, is / are always fun.

8. Both swimming and sailing is / are difficult to truly master.

9. The hunter and the hounds is / are following the bear.

10. The hunter or the hounds is / are lost.

11. The hounds or the hunter is / are lost.

12. The hunter, when not pursued by the hounds, is / are usually successful.

13. The book and the movie lacks / lack a compelling plot.

14. The book or the movie was / were written by the same person.

15. This book and those movies is / are too long.

16. These movies or that book is / are too long.

17. This movie, when not accompanied by short stories, is / are always interesting.

18. Our new teachers or our new principle / principal refuse / refuses to allow gum.

19. Neither our new principle / principal nor our new teachers allows / allow gum.

20. Sometimes our friends, as well as our enemies, teach / teaches us about ourselves.

21. My cousins, when not chaperoned by their dad, doesn’t / don’t like to run.

22. Either my cousin or her friends eat / eats dinner late.

23. My cousin and her friends eat / eats dinner late.

1. **Either cake or cookies is / are fine for dessert.**
2. **Bob and Randy wants / want to have cookies.**
3. **Bob or Randy wants / want cake.**
4. **Neither jogging nor swimming interests / interest him.**
5. **Neither swimming nor outdoor sports interests / interest him.**
6. **Both swimming and sailing is / are difficult to truly master.**
7. **The hunter and the hounds is / are following the bear.**
8. **The hunter or the hounds is / are lost.**
9. **The hounds or the hunter is / are lost.**

**10. The book and the movie lacks / lack a compelling plot.**

**11. The book or the movie was / were written by the same person.**

**12. This book and those movies is / are too long.**

**13. These movies or that book is / are too long.**

**14. Our new teachers or our new principle / principal**

**refuse / refuses to allow gum.**

**15. Neither our new principle / principal nor our new teachers allows / allow gum.**

**16. Sometimes our friends as well as our enemies teach / teaches us about ourselves.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conventions 18 Quiz**

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word or punctuation.

1. By now, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of conventions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remember.

there/they’re/their a lot / alot to/two/too

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ turn to change the oil, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ get groceries.

It’s / Its you’re / your than / then

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ skipping school \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ going with them?

There/They’re/Their every day / everyday whose / who’s

4. Did the three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ give the papers to my friend and \_\_\_\_\_\_?

woman / women all ready / already I / me

5. Yesterday, I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sick to go, but today, I feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

to/two/too all right / alright mom / Mom

6. My \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ belt is getting too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because it has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

every day / everyday lose / loose fewer / less

holes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it should have.

than / then

7. We could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eaten \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lunches, but we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ full.

of / have to/two/too were / where

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not going to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are you?

Your / You’re defiant/definite principle / principal

9. They have a plan, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plan is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not going to work.

there/they’re/their defiantly / definitely

10. That tall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has a new car, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ headlights don’t work.

woman / women it’s / its

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the students \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to leave class early yesterday?

Were / Where who / that chose / choose

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is standing outside right now?

Who’s / Whose mom / Mom

**SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / 34**

13. I want to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trouble, but I’ll have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ different friends.

fewer / less chose / choose

14. When will you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fact that you will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your keys if you

accept / except loose / lose

are not more careful about where you put them?

15. My friend Elsa and \_\_\_\_\_ have everything ready \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pens \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ don’t leak.

me / I accept/except that/who

16. Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ know the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your behavior could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had?

already / all ready affect / effect have / of

17. The volunteers are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the lives of people in Hood River.

already / all ready affect / effect

18. “Nowadays” in academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

“All in all” in academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

“You” in academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

**Spell the following words correctly.**

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. peralel / b. parrallel / c. paralell / d. parallel / e. parellel / f. perallel

20. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. gramar / b. gramer / c. grammer / d. grammar / e. gramur/ f. grammur

21. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. address / b. adress / c. addres / d. adres / e. addrus / f. uhdress

22. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. leyesens / b. liesence / c. license / d. lisense / e. lisence / f. licence

23. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. committment / b. commitment / c. comitment / d. commitment / e. cummitment

24. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. embarased / b. embarrased / c. embarassed / d. embarrassed / e. embearussd

25. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. absense / b. abcence / c. abcense / d. absence / e. absunse / f. abbsence

**SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / 22**

26. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. innocence / b. innosence / c. inosence / d. inocence / e. innosense / f. inasince

27. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. seperate / b. separate / c. separut / d. seprate / e. seprut / f. seprate

28. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. neseccery / b. nesessary / c. necessary / d. neccessary / e. neccesary

29. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. acidentally / b. accidentally / c. accidentaly / d. accidentely / e. axadently

30. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. forrun / b. forein / c. foriegn / d. foreign / e. forrein / f. forreign

31. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. priviledge / b. priveledg / c. privlige / d. priveledge / e. privilege

32. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. maintanence / b. maintenance / c. maintenence / d. maintinance / e. mantenence

33. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. beginning / b. begining / c. begginning / d. beginning / e. bahginnin

34. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. ocashun / b. occasion / c. occassion / d. ocasion / e. occation / f. uhkayshun

**Complete sentence, fragment, or run-on?**

35. \_\_\_\_\_ Yesterday, I drove to school.

36. \_\_\_\_\_ I drove to school I was too late to ride the bus.

37. \_\_\_\_\_ Although I was too late to ride the bus.

38. \_\_\_\_\_ I wasn’t too late to drive I drove fast.

39. \_\_\_\_\_ Luckily, I made it to school on time.

40. \_\_\_\_\_ I wonder when our school will start to.

**41. Circle the correctly punctuated sentence.**

A. I bought three books, including: *Timequake*, *Aftershock*, and *Still Waiting*.

B. I bought three books: “Timequake,” “Aftershock,” and “Still Waiting.”

C. I bought three books, including: “Timequake,” “Aftershock,” and “Still Waiting”.

D. I bought three books: *Timequake*, *Aftershock*, and *Still Waiting*.

**SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / 16**

**Circle the correct verb in each sentence.**

42. The students, even when unaccompanied by their teacher, ARRIVE / ARRIVES on time.

43. The students and their teacher ARRIVE / ARRIVES on time.

44. Either the students or their teacher ARRIVE / ARRIVES on time.

45. My parents and I WANT / WANTS me to graduate this year.

46. Either my parents or I WANT / WANTS me to graduate this year.

47. My parents, even when they’re with my sister, WANT / WANTS to eat pizza every Friday.

**Circle the correctly punctuated sentences.**

48. a. I have two friends’. 50. a. My last essays introduction was good.

b. I have two friend’s. b. My last essay’s introduction was good.

c. I have two friends. c. My last essays’ introduction was good.

49. a. My moms car is new. 51. a. Are your three dogs tails long?

b. My mom’s car is new. b. Are your three dog’s tails long?

c. My moms’ car is new. c. Are your three dogs’ tails long?

**SCORE ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

**51. Write a sentence with an apostrophe used to indicate possession and a semicolon.**

**52. Write a sentence that includes a comma and a correctly used colon (:) .**

**Insert punctuation where it belongs. Make your punctuation and its placement obvious.**

53. “Dont read write or listen today Tom no matter what ”

54. “Whos read the book called End Gate or talked about it ”

55. “Whens the next essay report or paper due Ms. Ramsey ”

**55. Write a paragraph about something you’ve always wanted but don’t have (at least, not yet). Your paragraph should be at least six sentences long. Try to make your writing *interesting* as well as grammatically correct.**

­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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