Subject-Verb Agreement 2

Subject-verb agreement means that your verb forms match the subject. We typically know what form of the verb to choose ("I am" not "I is" for 1st person singular and "He is" not "He are"), but there are a number of circumstances in which it is harder to tell whether the subject is first person or third, singular or plural.

➢ Begin by reviewing the correct forms of the verb "to be":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Person</td>
<td>I _______ an RCC student.</td>
<td>We _______ RCC students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I, We)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person (You)</td>
<td>You _______ an RCC student.</td>
<td>All of you _______ RCC students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Person (He, She, It, They)</td>
<td>John _______ an RCC student.</td>
<td>John &amp; Karen _______ RCC students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen _______ an RCC student.</td>
<td>They _______ RCC students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ If you have trouble finding verbs in a sentence, start by reading the fabulous explanation at http://chompchomp.com/terms/verb.htm
  - Before moving on, make sure you know how to spot the following:
    o When is the word crunch a noun? When is it an adjective? When is it a verb?
    o What is the difference between an action verb and a linking verb?
    o How can you find "helping" or "auxiliary" verbs?
  - Can you answer those questions? Good, now you’re ready!

➢ Go to http://chompchomp.com, select “Exercises” from the main menu, and select “Subject-Verb Agreement: Exercise 5” (or http://chompchomp.com/hotpotatoes/sva05.htm).
➢ Do the exercise, noting your answers on the handout attached to this DLA. Mark which ones you got incorrect and review them with an instructor on duty.

STOP

Attach a confirmation sheet or get an instructor on duty/WRC tutor signature below:

Continued on the next page...
Riverside Community College District
Writing Reading Center
Directed Learning Activity 60.35

This handout accompanies Exercise 5 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm

Directions: Choose the correct present tense verb form for the sentences below.

1. The dead trees and peeling paint, along with the broken windows and flapping shutters, ______ everyone believe that evil spirits haunt the deserted Sinclair house.
   A. made
   B. has made
   C. makes
   D. make

2. Where ______ the earrings that I left by the bathroom sink? Oh no! That stupid cat has swatted them down the drain again!
   A. was
   B. were
   C. is
   D. are

3. Neither of those sharks circling your boogie board ______ hungry enough to bite.
   A. looks
   B. look
   C. looked
   D. had looked

4. One hundred and fifty gallons ______ the amount of liquid the average living room rug can absorb. Rachel discovered this fact after taking a long shower when the curtain wasn't tucked inside the tub.
   A. is
   B. are
   C. was
   D. were

5. Agnes never loses a single possession. Everyone knows what belongs to her, for each pen, pencil, and paperclip ______ a tiny flag attached with Agnes' full name on it.
   A. will have
   B. has
   C. have
   D. had

6. Asteroids and comets slamming into Earth ______ Marge; she tries to remain under the protective cover of her roof as much as possible.
   A. worries
   B. worry
   C. worried
   D. used to worry

7. Someone—perhaps Emmanuel or Paul—________ the right wine to serve with earthworm lasagna.
   A. knew
   B. will know
   C. knows
   D. know

8. These scissors ______ so dull that I'm not sure you could slice butter with them!

   A. is
   B. are
   C. has been
   D. had been

9. Physics ______ proven to be Jerry's easiest subject this semester. He brings Carol, the lab assistant, an oatmeal-raisin cookie, and, as his reward, she finishes his report.
   A. has
   B. have
   C. had
   D. will have

10. The good jewelry Dad gave Sara for graduation ______ more than the cheap leather wallet that David got as his reward for finishing high school.
   A. costs
   B. cost
   C. will cost
   D. had cost

11. At Wendy's Washateria, all of the dryers ______ six quarters before spinning wet clothes dry.
   A. gobbles
   B. gobble
   C. gobbled
   D. will gobble

12. At Wendy's Washateria, each of the industrial washing machines ______ so forcefully during the spin cycle that new patrons dash outside, convinced that an earthquake is shaking the building.
   A. rocks
   B. rock
   C. rocked
   D. will rock

13. Everyone at Wendy's Washateria, even Myra and old Mrs. Webster, ______ that she could afford her own washer and dryer at home.
   A. wished
   B. have wished
   C. wish
   D. wishes

14. Every cereal bowl and casserole dish ______ slipped out of Sheila's soapy hands and shattered on the hard tile of the kitchen floor.
   A. has
   B. have
   C. will have
   D. had
15. Not only fat caterpillars but also my neighbor's rabbits chewed my poor tomato plants to leafless nubs.
   A. has
   B. have
   C. will have
   D. had

16. Two cups of sliced jalapeno peppers ________ extreme for a single batch of burrito filling, but that's the amount in Felipe's recipe.
   A. seemed
   B. had seemed
   C. seems
   D. seem

17. Even after winning the away game, the girl's basketball team ________ gloomy because Coach Cox will insist that the players return to their hotel rooms to study for next week's classes.
   A. is
   B. are
   C. was
   D. were

18. Either The Matrix or Aliens ________ Sam's favorite science-fiction movie.
   A. was
   B. were
   C. is
   D. are

19. The eight slots on Pam's extra large toaster ________ that no one has to fight over frozen waffles during breakfast.
   A. meant
   B. will mean
   C. means
   D. mean

20. "Here ________ the box of broken appliances that you promised to repair," Bob reminded Sue, his wife.
   A. is
   B. are
   C. will be
   D. have been

21. Statistics ________ become Matt's favorite subject because for fifty minutes three times a week he gets to study the beautiful curls on the back of Betty's head.
   A. has
   B. have
   C. had
   D. will have

22. Elton's newest pair of eyeglasses ________ corrected his vision so well that this young man clearly sees the lovely Miranda sneering at his nerdy appearance.
   A. have
   B. had
   C. has
   D. will have

23. The class ________ about the solution to the stuffy condition of the room; ten students want to open the window, but the others remember the flood of frightened cockroaches that poured in the last time Mr. Frampton released the window from the frame.
   A. disagrees
   B. disagree
   C. disagreed
   D. will continue to disagree

24. When the fire alarm starts ringing, Mrs. Hoff is one of those teachers who ________ that class continue on the lawn outside.
   A. insists
   B. insist
   C. insisted
   D. has insisted

25. Mrs. Hoff and Mrs. Phillips ________ that class time is precious and should not be wasted because of someone's immature prank.
   A. believes
   B. believe
   C. believed
   D. will believe