SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Two forms of a verb—one singular and one plural—appear in each sentence below. Underline the correct verb in each pair.

EXAMPLE: All of the drivers on the freeway (is, are) impatient this afternoon.

1. There (were, was) only a table and three chairs in the room.

2. Neither Aaron nor Brenda (is, are) able to cook under such conditions.

3. Politics (is, are) Angela’s chief interest.

4. When Will is not at a business meeting, athletics (claims, claim) all of his attention.

5. He is one of the crowd that (attends, attend) all of the prize fights.

6. A number of people (have, has) advised her to get a job.

7. If he (was, were) not living in the desert, the situation would not be as complicated.

8. A committee from the community (have, has) been appointed to find a site for the new school.

9. Both he and Susan (have, has) received scholarships.

10. Whenever Harry goes into the pasture, the herd of cows (runs, run) away from him.

11. The flock of sheep (is, are) a novelty to Harry.

12. Neither he nor his wife (have, has) ever lived on a farm before.

13. A flock of hens and geese (is, are) in the way of traffic.

14. Jenny likes to photograph animals in the wild but drops her camera if a covey of birds (appears, appear).

15. Fortunately, the committee that proposed the resolution (is, are) not responsible for the final vote.

16. Three-fourths of the student body (is, are) traveling out of state for the holiday.
17. Penny, as well as David, often (wish, wishes) she were back in Florida.

18. One of the neighbors (come, comes) every day to borrow a wheelbarrow or shovel.

19. At dusk each of the lights (turn, turns) on automatically.

20. The recent purchase of three hundred books (create, creates) a need for new shelves in the library.