Subject–Verb Agreement Practice

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which present-tense verb completes the sentence ‘Each Tuesday, Lila ___ the receipts’?
   - A. files
   - B. file
   - C. filing
   - D. have filed

   Correct answer: A. files

   Lila is a singular third-person subject. The simple present form is files.

2. Which simple present form completes ‘The crew members ___ before sunrise on workdays’?
   - A. arriving
   - B. arrives
   - C. arrive
   - D. has arrived

   Correct answer: C. arrive

   Members is the plural subject. The simple present uses arrive with that subject.

3. Which form of be fits the sentence ‘I ___ the first person in line today’?
   - A. is
   - B. am
   - C. are
   - D. be

   Correct answer: B. am

   The first-person singular present form of be is am.

4. Choose the present-tense verb for ‘Rina and Sol ___ the garden gate each evening.’
   - A. locking
   - B. locks
   - C. has locked
   - D. lock

   Correct answer: D. lock

   Rina and Sol names two people as one compound subject. The plural subject takes lock.

5. Which option completes ‘Each of the labeled packets ___ a different map’ in the simple present tense?

A. contain
B. contains
C. are containing
D. have contained

Correct answer: B. contains
Each is the singular subject. The plural noun packets is inside the prepositional phrase.

6. In ‘A row of coat hooks __ beside the door,’ which present-tense form fits standard written English?

A. hangs
B. hang
C. are hanging
D. have hung

Correct answer: A. hangs
The subject is a row. Hooks describes what makes up the row and does not control the verb.

7. The editor has written ‘The keys to the supply cabinet belongs in the locked drawer.’ Which change fixes the subject–verb agreement?

A. Change cabinet to cabinets.
B. Change drawer to drawers.
C. Change locked to lock.
D. Change belongs to belong.

Correct answer: D. Change belongs to belong.
Keys is the plural subject. The prepositional phrase to the supply cabinet does not change its number.

8. Which sentence uses standard subject–verb agreement?

A. The elevators does not stop on this floor.
B. The elevator do not stop on this floor.
C. The elevator does not stop on this floor.
D. The elevators does not stops on this floor.

Correct answer: C. The elevator does not stop on this floor.
The singular elevator takes does. The verb that follows the auxiliary stays in its base form, stop.

9. Which beginning completes ‘___ three clean bowls on the shelf’ as a formal present-tense sentence?

A. There are
B. There is
C. There am
D. There be

Correct answer: A. There are
The subject is three clean bowls, which comes after the verb. Its plural form calls for are.

10. Which version keeps the verb in agreement when ‘along with two volunteers’ adds information about the host?

A. The host, along with two volunteers, are keeping the seating chart.
B. The host, along with two volunteers, keep the seating chart.
C. The host, along with two volunteers, have kept the seating chart.
D. The host, along with two volunteers, keeps the seating chart.

Correct answer: D. The host, along with two volunteers, keeps the seating chart.
The host remains the singular subject. Along with introduces an added phrase, so the finite verb is keeps.

11. Using conventional U.S. agreement with the nearer subject, what completes ‘Neither the loading bays nor the side entrance ___ open at noon’?

A. am
B. are
C. is
D. have been

Correct answer: C. is
Two subjects differ in number and are joined by nor. Side entrance is nearer the verb and is singular, so is fits.

12. A report means that several volunteers check the new forms and Sana is among them. Which version conveys that meaning with correct agreement?

A. Sana is one of the volunteers who checks the new forms.
B. Sana is one of the volunteers who check the new forms.
C. Sana are one of the volunteers who check the new forms.
D. Sana are one of the volunteers who checks the new forms.

Correct answer: B. Sana is one of the volunteers who check the new forms.
Volunteers is the plural antecedent of who, so check agrees in the relative clause. The main clause has the singular subject Sana and uses is.

13. Choose the verbs for ‘A third of the hallway ___ unpainted, and a third of the rooms ___ new doors.’

A. remain / needs
B. remain / need
C. remains / needs
D. remains / need

Correct answer: D. remains / need
The first fraction refers to part of one hallway and takes remains. The second refers to a share of multiple rooms and takes need.

14. A notice treats ten minutes as one total waiting period. Which sentence agrees with that meaning?

A. Ten minutes is the full waiting period.
B. Ten minutes are the full waiting period.
C. Ten minutes have the full waiting period.
D. Ten minutes be the full waiting period.

Correct answer: A. Ten minutes is the full waiting period.
A quantity treated as one unit can take a singular verb. Here the phrase denotes a single total time interval.

15. Choose the pair that correctly completes ‘The binder of statements ___ a map, and the statements that ___ to the launch are marked.’

A. contains / refers
B. contain / refers
C. contains / refer
D. contain / refer

Correct answer: C. contains / refer
Binder is the first singular subject, so it takes contains. In the relative clause, that refers back to the plural statements, so the verb is refer.