

MASTERMIND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

RULE NUMBER 1

There must be agreement between pronouns and their antecedents. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number (whether singular or plural), in person (whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd Person) or in gender (whether feminine, masculine or non-human).

*A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in **number** and **person**.*

TEST 01

Choose the correct option that best completes each sentence.

1. Each of the students must submit _____ assignment before Friday.

- A. their
 - B. his or her
 - C. our
 - D. your
-

2. Neither the teacher nor the students brought _____ books.

- A. his
 - B. her
 - C. their
 - D. its
-

3. Everyone in the class should do _____ best to pass the examination.

- A. their
 - B. his or her
 - C. our
 - D. your
-

4. If a person wants to succeed, _____ must work hard.

- A. they

- B. he or she
 - C. we
 - D. you
-

5. The committee has made _____ decision known to the public.

- A. their
 - B. its
 - C. his
 - D. our
-

6. John and Michael said that _____ would attend the meeting.

- A. he
 - B. they
 - C. we
 - D. it
-

7. No one should neglect _____ duties.

- A. their
 - B. his or her
 - C. our
 - D. your
-

8. A student must always take _____ studies seriously.

- A. their
 - B. his or her
 - C. our
 - D. your
-

9. The team celebrated _____ victory after the match.

- A. their
 - B. its
 - C. his
 - D. her
-

10. Neither Ama nor Adjoa brought _____ notebook to class.

- A. their
- B. her

- C. our
- D. its

ANSWER KEY WITH (DETAILED EXPLANATION)

Answers

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. B
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. B

1. Each of the students must submit _____ assignment before Friday.

- A. their
- B. his or her
- C. our
- D. your

Correct Answer: B. *his or her*

The subject of the sentence is: “Each of the students” Even though “students” is plural, the key word here is “Each”. “Each” is singular, because it refers to one person at a time.

The rule states: A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number and person.
Since “each” = singular, the pronoun must also be singular.

-
- A. their ✗
→ plural pronoun → does NOT agree with singular “each”
 - B. his or her ✓
→ singular pronoun → correctly agrees with “each” ✓ This is the correct answer
 - C. our ✗
→ first person plural → incorrect
 - D. your ✗
→ second person → incorrect

2. Neither the teacher nor the students brought _____ books.

- A. his
- B. her
- C. their
- D. its

Correct Answer: C. *their*

The sentence uses: “**Neither the teacher nor the students...**” This is a **correlative conjunction** structure:
Neither...nor

For “**neither...nor**”, the pronoun agrees with the **nearest subject** (the one closest to it).

Subjects:

- **teacher** (singular)
- **students** (plural) ← *nearest to the pronoun*

Since “**students**” is **plural**, the pronoun must also be **plural**.

- **A. his** ✗
→ singular → does not agree with “students”
 - **B. her** ✗
→ singular → incorrect
 - **C. their** ✓
→ plural → correctly agrees with “students”
 - **D. its** ✗
→ singular, used for things → incorrect
-

Always remember that for:

- **Either...or**
- **Neither...nor**

The pronoun agrees with the **subject closest to it**

3. Everyone in the class should do _____ best to pass the examination.

- A. their
- B. his or her
- C. our
- D. your

The correct answer is **B. his or her**.

The sentence is: *Everyone in the class should do _____ best to pass the examination.*

- “Everyone” is an **indefinite pronoun**.
- Even though it refers to many people, grammatically it is treated as **singular**.

Because “everyone” is singular, the possessive pronoun must also be **singular**.

- **A. their** ✗
 - “Their” is plural.
 - Traditionally considered incorrect with singular “everyone” (though common in modern informal English).
- **B. his or her** ✓
 - This is **singular** and agrees with “everyone”.
 - It is the **grammatically correct** and formal answer.
- **C. our** ✗
 - Refers to “we” (the speaker included), not “everyone”.
- **D. your** ✗
 - Refers to “you”, which does not match “everyone”.

3. Why “his or her” is correct

- It maintains **subject–pronoun agreement**.
- It avoids gender bias by including both “his” and “her”.

Note (important for exams)

In modern English, many people say: *Everyone should do **their** best.*

This is widely accepted in everyday use, but in **formal exams**, the expected answer is:

B. his or her

4. If a person wants to succeed, _____ must work hard.

- A. they
- B. he or she
- C. we
- D. you

The correct answer is **B. he or she.**

The sentence is: *If a person wants to succeed, _____ must work hard.*

“a person” is **singular**. So the pronoun that replaces it must also be **singular**.

- **A. they ✗**
 - “They” is plural (traditionally). Though commonly used in modern English, it is usually **not accepted in formal exams**.
 - **B. he or she ✓**
 - This is **singular** and matches “a person”. It is the **correct formal answer**.
 - **C. we ✗**
 - Refers to the speaker + others, not “a person”.
 - **D. you ✗**
 - Refers directly to the listener, not “a person”.
-

To maintain **subject–pronoun agreement**, we use a singular pronoun:

Correct answer: B. he or she

In everyday English, people often say: *If a person wants to succeed, **they** must work hard.*

But in **school exams**, always choose: “**he or she**”

5. The committee has made _____ decision known to the public.

- A. their
- B. its
- C. his
- D. our

The correct answer is **B. its.**

The sentence is: *The committee has made _____ decision known to the public.*

- “The committee” is a **collective noun**.

- In this sentence, it is acting as **one single unit**, not as individuals.

Therefore, it is treated as **singular**. Since “committee” is singular here, we use a **singular possessive pronoun**.

- **A. their** ✗
 - “Their” is plural. Would only be correct if the committee members were acting separately.
- **B. its** ✓
 - “Its” is singular and matches “committee”. Correct answer.
- **C. his** ✗
 - Refers to a male person, not a group.
- **D. our** ✗
 - Refers to “we”, not “committee”.

Because “committee” is treated as a single unit, the correct pronoun is:

B. its

Tip to remember

- Collective noun acting as one → **its**
 - Collective noun acting as individuals → **their**
-

6. John and Michael said that _____ would attend the meeting.

- A. he
- B. they
- C. we
- D. it

The correct answer is **B. they**.

The sentence is: *John and Michael said that _____ would attend the meeting.*

- “**John and Michael**” refers to **two people**.
- When two people are joined by “**and**”, the subject is **plural**.

Since the subject is plural, we need a **plural pronoun**.

- **A. he** ✗
 - Singular (refers to one male person).

- **B. they** ✓
 - Plural pronoun. Correctly refers to both John and Michael.
 - **C. we** ✗
 - Refers to the speaker + others, not John and Michael.
 - **D. it** ✗
 - Used for things or animals, not people.
-

Because the subject is plural (John and Michael), the correct pronoun is: they

Tip to remember

- **Singular subject** → **singular pronoun** (he, she, it)
 - **Plural subject** → **plural pronoun** (they, we)
-

7. No one should neglect _____ duties.

- A. their
- B. his or her
- C. our
- D. your

The correct answer is **B. his or her**.

The sentence is: *No one should neglect _____ duties.*

- “**No one**” is an **indefinite pronoun**.
- It is always treated as **singular**, even though it refers to many people.

Since “no one” is singular, we need a **singular possessive pronoun**.

- **A. their** ✗
 - “Their” is plural (traditionally).
 - Not accepted in formal exams.
- **B. his or her** ✓
 - Singular and agrees with “no one”.
 - ✓ Correct answer.
- **C. our** ✗
 - Refers to “we”.
- **D. your** ✗
 - Refers to “you”.

Because “no one” is singular, the correct pronoun is:

B. his or her

Important tip

In everyday English, people often say: *No one should neglect **their** duties.* But in **formal grammar and exams**, use: “**his or her**”

8. A student must always take _____ studies seriously.

- A. their
- B. his or her
- C. our
- D. your

The correct answer is **B. his or her**.

The sentence is: *A student must always take _____ studies seriously.*

- “A student” is **singular**.
- Therefore, the pronoun that refers to it must also be **singular**.

- **A. their** ✗
 - “Their” is plural (traditionally). Not accepted in formal exams.
- **B. his or her** ✓
 - Singular and agrees with “a student”. Correct answer.
- **C. our** ✗
 - Refers to “we”.
- **D. your** ✗
 - Refers to “you”.

Since “a student” is singular, we use a singular possessive pronoun:

B. his or her

Tip to remember

- Singular subject → **his or her**
 - Plural subject → **their**
-

9. The team celebrated _____ victory after the match.

- A. their
- B. its
- C. his
- D. her

The correct answer is **B. its**.

The sentence is: *The team celebrated _____ victory after the match.*

- “**The team**” is a **collective noun**.
- Here, the team is acting as **one unit** (celebrating together).

So, it is treated as **singular**.

Since the subject is singular, we use a **singular possessive pronoun**.

- **A. their** ✗
 - Plural pronoun. Used only if team members act individually.
- **B. its** ✓
 - Singular pronoun. Correctly matches “team”.
- **C. his** ✗
 - Refers to one male person.
- **D. her** ✗
 - Refers to one female person.

Because “team” is acting as one group, the correct answer is:

B. its

Tip to remember

- Collective noun acting as one → **its**
 - Acting as individuals → **their**
-

10. Neither Ama nor Adjoa brought _____ notebook to class.

- A. their
- B. her
- C. our
- D. its

The correct answer is **B. her**.

The sentence is: *Neither Ama nor Adjoa brought _____ notebook to class.*

- The phrase “**neither...nor**” is used.
- It refers to **two people separately**, not together.
- The subject is treated as **singular**, focusing on each person individually.

When using “**neither...nor**”, the verb and pronoun usually agree with the **nearest subject**.

- The nearest subject here is **Adjoa** (a female name). So we use a **singular feminine pronoun**.
- **A. their** ✗
 - Plural (not correct in formal grammar here).
- **B. her** ✓
 - Singular feminine pronoun. Correctly matches Ama/Adjoa.
- **C. our** ✗
 - Refers to “we”.
- **D. its** ✗
 - Used for things or animals, not people.

Because the sentence refers to each person individually and the nearest subject is feminine:

Correct answer: B. her

Tip to remember

- **Neither...nor** → **singular idea**
- Use a **singular pronoun** that matches the subject.

RULE NUMBER 2

Subject–Verb Agreement – Intervening Phrase

When an intervening phrase (group of words, like prepositional phrase, adjectival or adverbial) separates the subject from the verb, the verb will agree with the headword.

Instructions: Choose the correct verb form that agrees with the **headword (main subject)** of the sentence.

RULE 2 TEST 01

1. The manager, along with his assistants, _____ the report before the board meeting.
A. submit
B. submits
C. submitting
D. submitted

2. Every student, despite their busy schedules, _____ expected to complete the project on time.
A. are
B. is
C. were
D. have been

3. The principal, together with the teachers, _____ the new curriculum guidelines.
A. implement
B. implements
C. implementing
D. implemented

4. The boy, including his friends from the neighborhood, _____ responsible for the broken window.
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have been

5. A bouquet of roses, along with a handwritten card, _____ placed on the teacher's desk.
A. were
B. is
C. are
D. have

6. The committee, as well as the chairperson, _____ the proposal before the funding board.
A. present
B. presents
C. presenting
D. presented

7. Each of the players, including the goalkeeper, _____ expected to attend the morning training session.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were
8. The author, along with her editors and illustrators, _____ praised for the success of the book.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were
9. The box of chocolates, together with the greeting card, _____ delivered to the principal's office.
A. is
B. are
C. have
D. were
10. The teacher, in addition to the students, _____ invited to participate in the workshop.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were

1. The manager, along with his assistants, _____ the report before the board meeting.
- A. submit
 - B. submits
 - C. submitting
 - D. submitted

The correct answer is **B. submits**.

The sentence is: *The manager, along with his assistants, _____ the report before the board meeting.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**The manager**” (singular).
 - The phrase “**along with his assistants**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
 - Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “submit” is “**submits**”.
 - **A. submit** ✗ → plural verb; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **B. submits** ✓ → singular verb; correct.
 - **C. submitting** ✗ → participle, not a finite verb here.
 - **D. submitted** ✗ → past tense; tense mismatch if the context is present.
-

Rule reinforced

Intervening phrases like “along with”, “together with”, “including” do not change the verb. The verb always agrees with the headword of the subject.

2. Every student, despite their busy schedules, _____ expected to complete the project on time.
- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. were
 - D. have been

The correct answer is **B. is**.

The sentence is: *Every student, despite their busy schedules, _____ expected to complete the project on time.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**Every student**” (singular).
- The phrase “**despite their busy schedules**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “to be” is “**is**”.

- **A. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with “Every student”.
- **B. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
- **C. were** ✗ → past tense, not present.
- **D. have been** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.

Rule reinforced

Even when an intervening phrase (like “despite their busy schedules”) appears, the verb agrees with the main subject, not the noun in the intervening phrase.

3. The principal, together with the teachers, _____ the new curriculum guidelines.
- A. implement
 - B. implements
 - C. implementing
 - D. implemented

The correct answer is **B. implements**.

The sentence is: *The principal, together with the teachers, _____ the new curriculum guidelines.*

The main subject (headword) is “**The principal**” (singular).

- The phrase “**together with the teachers**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** affect the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “implement” is “**implements**”.
- **A. implement** ✗ → plural verb; does not agree with singular subject.
- **B. implements** ✓ → singular verb; correct.
- **C. implementing** ✗ → participle; not a finite verb.
- **D. implemented** ✗ → past tense; tense mismatch.

Rule reinforced

When an intervening phrase like “together with...” separates the subject and the verb, the verb agrees with the main subject (headword), not the nouns in the intervening phrase.

4. The boy, including his friends from the neighborhood, _____ responsible for the broken window.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. were
 - D. have been

The correct answer is **A. is**.

The sentence is: *The boy, including his friends from the neighborhood, _____ responsible for the broken window.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**The boy**” (singular).
- The phrase “**including his friends from the neighborhood**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.

Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “to be” is “**is**”.

- **A. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
 - **B. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **C. were** ✗ → past tense; does not match present context.
 - **D. have been** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
-

Rule reinforced

Intervening phrases such as “including...” do not affect the verb. The verb always agrees with the main subject (headword).

5. A bouquet of roses, along with a handwritten card, _____ placed on the teacher’s desk.
- A. were
 - B. is
 - C. are
 - D. have

The correct answer is **B. is**.

The sentence is: *A bouquet of roses, along with a handwritten card, _____ placed on the teacher’s desk.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**A bouquet of roses**” (singular).
- The phrase “**along with a handwritten card**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “to be” in passive form is “**is**”.

-
- **A. were** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **B. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
 - **C. are** ✗ → plural; incorrect.
 - **D. have** ✗ → auxiliary verb, not appropriate here.
-

Rule reinforced

When a singular subject is followed by an intervening phrase like “along with...”, “together with...”, or “including...”, the verb still agrees with the main subject.

6. The committee, as well as the chairperson, _____ the proposal before the funding board.
- A. present
 - B. presents
 - C. presenting
 - D. presented

The correct answer is **B. presents**.

The sentence is: *The committee, as well as the chairperson, _____ the proposal before the funding board.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**The committee**” (singular).
 - The phrase “**as well as the chairperson**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
 - Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “present” is “**presents**”.
-

- **A. present** ✗ → plural verb; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **B. presents** ✓ → singular; correct.
 - **C. presenting** ✗ → participle, not a finite verb.
 - **D. presented** ✗ → past tense; context is present.
-

Rule reinforced

Intervening phrases like “as well as...”, “together with...”, or “including...” do not affect the verb. The verb always agrees with the headword (main subject).

7. Each of the players, including the goalkeeper, _____ expected to attend the morning training session.
- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. have
 - D. were

The correct answer is **B. is**.

The sentence is: *Each of the players, including the goalkeeper, _____ expected to attend the morning training session.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**Each**” (singular).
 - The phrase “**of the players, including the goalkeeper**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
 - Since “**Each**” is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular present tense of “to be” is “**is**”.
 - **A. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **B. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
 - **C. have** ✗ → plural; incorrect.
 - **D. were** ✗ → past tense; context is present.
-

Rule reinforced

Even if an intervening phrase (like “including the goalkeeper”) appears, the verb agrees with the headword “Each,” not the noun in the phrase.

8. The author, along with her editors and illustrators, _____ praised for the success of the book.
- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. have
 - D. were

The correct answer is **B. is**.

The sentence is: *The author, along with her editors and illustrators, _____ praised for the success of the book.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**The author**” (singular).

- The phrase “**along with her editors and illustrators**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** affect the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular past tense of “to be” in passive form is “**is**” (if context is present) or “**was**” (if past). In this question, present context is implied, so “**is**” fits.
- **A. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
- **B. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
- **C. have** ✗ → auxiliary verb, plural; incorrect.
- **D. were** ✗ → plural past tense; does not agree with singular subject.

Rule reinforced

When an intervening phrase like “along with...” separates the subject and the verb, the verb always agrees with the main subject (headword), not with nouns in the intervening phrase.

9. The box of chocolates, together with the greeting card, _____ delivered to the principal’s office.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were

The correct answer is **A. is**.

The sentence is: *The box of chocolates, together with the greeting card, _____ delivered to the principal’s office.*

- The main subject (headword) is “**The box of chocolates**” (singular).
- The phrase “**together with the greeting card**” is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**.
- Singular past participle (passive voice) of “to be delivered” is used with “**is**”:

“The box ... is delivered.”

- **A. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
- **B. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
- **C. have** ✗ → plural auxiliary; incorrect.
- **D. were** ✗ → plural past tense; does not match singular subject.

Rule reinforced

Even if a noun phrase (like “together with the greeting card”) comes between the subject and verb, the verb must agree with the headword (“The box of chocolates”).

The teacher, in addition to the students, _____ invited to participate in the workshop.

- A. are
- B. is
- C. have
- D. were

The correct answer is **B. is**.

The sentence is: *The teacher, in addition to the students, _____ invited to participate in the workshop.*

- The main subject (headword) is **“The teacher”** (singular).
- The phrase **“in addition to the students”** is an **intervening phrase** and does **not** change the number of the subject.
- Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be **singular**. Singular past participle (passive voice) is used with **“is”** for present context:

“The teacher is invited.”

- **A. are** ✗ → plural; does not agree with singular subject.
 - **B. is** ✓ → singular; correct.
 - **C. have** ✗ → plural auxiliary; incorrect.
 - **D. were** ✗ → plural past tense; does not match singular subject.
-

Rule reinforced

When an intervening phrase (like “in addition to the students”) separates the subject from the verb, the verb always agrees with the headword (main subject), not the nouns in the intervening phrase.

TEST 02
CONCORD RULE 2

Instructions:

Choose the correct verb that agrees with the **headword (main subject)** of each sentence. Be careful: intervening phrases like *along with*, *together with*, *including*, *as well as* may appear.

1. The team, along with its coaches, _____ preparing for the championship match.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

2. The students, together with the prefects, _____ selected to organize the cultural festival.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. has
-

3. My father, including my uncles, _____ planning to attend the funeral.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. were
 - D. have
-

4. A group of teachers, along with the headmaster, _____ invited to the national conference.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

5. The children, as well as their friends from the neighborhood, _____ playing football in the school yard.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. has
-

6. Each of the applicants, together with their referees, _____ required to submit all supporting documents before Friday.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

7. The committee members, along with the chairperson, _____ responsible for drafting the new policy.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. has
-

8. The pack of lions, including the cubs, _____ roaming near the river bank.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

9. The principal, along with her teachers and students, _____ attending the award ceremony.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. have
-

10. The athletes, together with their coaches and officials, _____ prepared to leave for the tournament.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. has
-

DETAILED ANSWER EXPLANATION TO RULE 2 , TEST 02

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS – TEST 02 (Intervening Phrases)

1. The team, along with its coaches, _____ preparing for the championship match.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword (main subject): *The team* → singular (collective noun acting as one unit)
- Intervening phrase: *along with its coaches* → irrelevant to agreement
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

Even though *coaches* is plural, it does not control the verb.

2. The students, together with the prefects, _____ selected to organize the cultural festival.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Headword: *The students* → plural
- Intervening phrase: *together with the prefects*
- Verb agreement: Plural → are

Ignore *prefects*—focus on *students*.

3. My father, including my uncles, _____ planning to attend the funeral.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword: *My father* → singular
- Intervening phrase: *including my uncles*
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

“Including...” does not make the subject plural.

4. A group of teachers, along with the headmaster, _____ invited to the national conference.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword: *A group* → singular (important trap!)
- *of teachers* is just a qualifier
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

Always watch phrases like “a group of...” → singular.

5. The children, as well as their friends from the neighborhood, _____ playing football in the school yard.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Headword: *The children* → plural
- Intervening phrase: *as well as their friends*
- Verb agreement: Plural → are

“As well as” behaves like “along with”—it does not join subjects.

6. Each of the applicants, together with their referees, _____ required to submit all supporting documents before Friday.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword: *Each* → always singular
- *of the applicants* and *together with their referees* → modifiers
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

“Each” is a strong singular trigger—ignore everything else.

7. The committee members, along with the chairperson, _____ responsible for drafting the new policy.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Headword: *The committee members* → plural
- Intervening phrase: *along with the chairperson*
- Verb agreement: Plural → are

Don’t confuse *committee* (singular) with *committee members* (plural).

8. The pack of lions, including the cubs, _____ roaming near the river bank.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword: *The pack* → singular collective noun
- *of lions* → descriptive phrase
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

“Pack” is the subject—not “lions”.

9. The principal, along with her teachers and students, _____ attending the award ceremony.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Headword: *The principal* → singular
- Intervening phrase: *along with her teachers and students*
- Verb agreement: Singular → is

The long phrase is a distraction—ignore it.

10. The athletes, together with their coaches and officials, _____ prepared to leave for the tournament.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Headword: *The athletes* → plural
- Intervening phrase: *together with their coaches and officials*
- Verb agreement: Plural → are

Focus only on *athletes*, not the added groups.

Key WASSCE Takeaways (Very Important)

1. Intervening phrases DO NOT affect the verb:

- along with
- together with
- including
- as well as

- in addition to

Always ignore them when choosing the verb.

2. Always locate the headword (true subject):

- *A group of teachers* → **group (singular)**
 - *The pack of lions* → **pack (singular)**
 - *Committee members* → **plural**
-

3. Watch out for common traps:

- **Each / Everyone / Nobody** → always singular
 - **Children / Students / Athletes** → plural
 - **Collective nouns** → usually singular unless clearly pluralized (e.g., “members”)
-

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CONCORD RULE 3

When two subjects are joined by ‘neither...nor’ or ‘either...or’, the verb will agree with the subject closer to it. For example

CONCORD RULE 4

a. Indefinite pronouns such as everyone, everybody, each, either, neither nobody, somebody, anybody, anyone, someone and no one are treated as singular and generally take singular verbs.

b. Other indefinite pronouns such as several, many, few and both are treated as plural.

c. Notwithstanding, there are indefinite pronouns such as some, none, all, any and most whose singularity or plurality can only be determined from context

Indefinite Pronouns (Concord Rule 4) TEST 01

Features of this test:

- Includes **always-singular indefinite pronouns**: everyone, nobody, someone, anybody.
- Includes **always-plural indefinite pronouns**: both, many, several.
- Includes **context-sensitive indefinite pronouns**: some, none, all, most.
- Sentences are deliberately **tricky and complex**, mimicking WASSCE exam style.

Instructions:

Choose the verb that correctly agrees with the indefinite pronoun in each sentence. Be careful: context determines singular or plural in some cases.

1. Everyone in the staff room, including the headteacher, _____ expected to attend the briefing.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. have
- D. were

2. Both of the candidates _____ prepared for the debate competition.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. has
- D. was

3. Some of the rice _____ been stolen from the storehouse.

- A. are
 - B. have
 - C. has
 - D. is
-

4. Most of the children in the orphanage _____ excited about the upcoming trip.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. has
 - D. was
-

5. Neither of the two speakers _____ convinced the audience completely.

- A. were
 - B. has
 - C. is
 - D. are
-

6. Nobody among the staff _____ aware of the new security protocol.

- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

7. Some of the money collected during the fundraiser _____ already been used to pay bills.

- A. were
 - B. has
 - C. are
 - D. have
-

8. None of the participants _____ willing to continue after the long workshop.

- A. were
- B. is
- C. have
- D. are

9. All of the laptops donated to the school last week _____ functioning properly.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. has
 - D. was
-

10. Anybody who enters the laboratory without safety gear _____ risking their life.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were
-

ANSWERS AND DETAILED EXPLANATION TO RULE 3 AND 4 , TEST 01

1. Everyone in the staff room, including the headteacher, _____ expected to attend the briefing.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Everyone* → always singular.
 - Intervening phrase: *including the headteacher* → does not affect singularity.
 - Verb agreement: Singular subject → singular verb.
 - Rule: Indefinite pronouns such as everyone, somebody, no one take singular verbs.
-

2. Both of the candidates _____ prepared for the debate competition.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Both* → always plural.
- Intervening phrase: none that changes plurality.
- Verb agreement: Plural subject → plural verb.
- Rule: Pronouns like both, many, several take plural verbs.

3. Some of the rice _____ been stolen from the storehouse.

Correct answer: C. has

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Some of the rice* → rice is uncountable, treated as singular.
- Context: The sentence refers to a quantity of rice, not individual items.
- Verb agreement: Singular → has.
- Rule: Some, all, most, any → singular or plural depending on the noun that follows.

4. Most of the children in the orphanage _____ excited about the upcoming trip.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Most of the children* → children is plural, so most is plural here.
- Verb agreement: Plural → are.
- Rule: Context-sensitive indefinite pronouns like most take plural verbs when referring to plural nouns.

5. Neither of the two speakers _____ convinced the audience completely.

Correct answer: C. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Neither* → singular.
- Intervening phrase: *of the two speakers* → does not change singularity.
- Verb agreement: Singular → is.
- Rule: Neither, either → always singular; verb agrees with the nearest subject (headword).

6. Nobody among the staff _____ aware of the new security protocol.

Correct answer: B. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Nobody* → always singular.
- Intervening phrase: *among the staff* → does not affect the singular nature.
- Verb agreement: Singular → is.

- Rule: Always-singular indefinite pronouns take singular verbs.
-

7. Some of the money collected during the fundraiser _____ already been used to pay bills.

Correct answer: B. has

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Some of the money* → money is uncountable, singular.
 - Context: Refers to a part of a singular sum, not multiple items.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → has.
 - Rule: Context-sensitive indefinite pronouns take singular verb with singular/uncountable noun.
-

8. None of the participants _____ willing to continue after the long workshop.

Correct answer: A. were

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *None of the participants* → participants is plural.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → were.
 - Rule: None can be singular or plural depending on context. Here it refers to multiple participants → plural verb.
-

9. All of the laptops donated to the school last week _____ functioning properly.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *All of the laptops* → plural.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → are.
 - Rule: Context-sensitive indefinite pronouns (all) take plural verbs when referring to plural nouns.
-

10. Anybody who enters the laboratory without safety gear _____ risking their life.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Anybody* → singular.

- Verb agreement: Singular → is.
 - Rule: Always-singular indefinite pronouns take singular verbs.
-

Summary of Key Rules Applied

1. **Always singular:** everyone, everybody, each, either, neither, nobody, somebody, anybody, someone, no one → singular verb.
 2. **Always plural:** both, many, few, several → plural verb.
 3. **Context-dependent:** some, any, most, all, none → singular or plural depending on the noun they refer to.
 4. **Intervening phrases** (e.g., including..., among..., of the...) do **not** affect verb agreement.
-

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CONCORD RULE 3 , 4 TEST 02

WASSCE-Style Test – Indefinite Pronouns

Instructions:

Choose the correct verb form that agrees with the indefinite pronoun or subject in each sentence. Pay close attention to singular/plural and context-sensitive pronouns.

1. Everyone in the class, despite the distractions, _____ attentive throughout the lecture.

- A. remain
 - B. remains
 - C. remained
 - D. remaining
-

2. Both of the engineers _____ responsible for completing the project on time.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. has been
 - D. was
-

3. Some of the water in the tank _____ evaporated due to the high temperature.

- A. has
 - B. have
 - C. is
 - D. are
-

4. Most of the students, including the prefects, _____ involved in the clean-up exercise.

- A. was
 - B. is
 - C. are
 - D. has been
-

5. Neither of the solutions proposed by the scientists _____ effective in solving the problem.

- A. were
 - B. has
 - C. is
 - D. have been
-

6. Nobody who attended the seminar _____ aware of the new amendments.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. has
 - D. have
-

7. Some of the books on the shelf _____ missing after the inspection.

- A. were
 - B. has
 - C. is
 - D. has been
-

8. None of the witnesses _____ ready to testify in court today.

- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. have
 - D. has
-

9. All of the assignments submitted by the students _____ marked by the end of the week.

- A. are
- B. were

- C. has been
 - D. is
-

10. Anyone who violates the laboratory rules _____ risking serious injury.

- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. was
-

ANSWERS AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS TO RULE 3, 4 - TEST 02

1. Everyone in the class, despite the distractions, _____ attentive throughout the lecture.

Correct answer: B. remains

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Everyone* → always singular.
 - Intervening phrase: *in the class, despite the distractions* → does not change singularity.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → remains.
 - Notes: Present tense fits the context. “Remain” (A) is plural; “remained” (C) is past; “remaining” (D) is a participle, not a finite verb.
-

2. Both of the engineers _____ responsible for completing the project on time.

Correct answer: B. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Both* → always plural.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → are.
 - Notes: “Is” (A) is singular, “has been” (C) is present perfect singular/plural mismatch, “was” (D) is past tense.
-

3. Some of the water in the tank _____ evaporated due to the high temperature.

Correct answer: A. has

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Some of the water* → water is uncountable, treated as singular.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → has.
 - Notes: “Have” (B) is plural; “is” (C) and “are” (D) are incorrect forms for the present perfect tense.
-

4. Most of the students, including the prefects, _____ involved in the clean-up exercise.

Correct answer: C. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Most of the students* → students is plural → plural verb.
 - Intervening phrase: *including the prefects* → does not change the plurality.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → are.
 - Notes: “Was” (A) and “is” (B) are singular; “has been” (D) is present perfect but not needed here.
-

5. Neither of the solutions proposed by the scientists _____ effective in solving the problem.

Correct answer: C. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Neither* → singular.
 - Intervening phrase: *of the solutions proposed by the scientists* → does not affect singularity.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → is.
 - Notes: “Were” (A) and “have been” (D) are plural; “has” (B) is not appropriate as main verb.
-

6. Nobody who attended the seminar _____ aware of the new amendments.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Nobody* → always singular.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → is.
 - Notes: “Are” (B), “have” (C), and “have” (D) are plural forms and incorrect.
-

7. Some of the books on the shelf _____ missing after the inspection.

Correct answer: A. were

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Some of the books* → books is plural → plural verb.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → were (past tense matches “after the inspection”).
 - Notes: “Has” (B) and “is” (C) are singular/present, “has been” (D) is present perfect but context implies simple past.
-

8. None of the witnesses _____ ready to testify in court today.

Correct answer: A. are

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *None of the witnesses* → witnesses is plural → plural verb.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → are.
 - Notes: “Is” (B) is singular; “have” (C) or “has” (D) are auxiliary verbs, incorrect here.
-

9. All of the assignments submitted by the students _____ marked by the end of the week.

Correct answer: B. were

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *All of the assignments* → plural → plural verb.
 - Verb agreement: Plural → were (past tense for “by the end of the week”).
 - Notes: “Are” (A) is present; “has been” (C) is singular present perfect; “is” (D) is singular present.
-

10. Anyone who violates the laboratory rules _____ risking serious injury.

Correct answer: A. is

Explanation:

- Subject (headword): *Anyone* → singular.
 - Verb agreement: Singular → is.
 - Notes: “Are” (B), “have” (C), “was” (D) do not match singular subject or present tense context.
-

Summary of Key Points

1. Always singular: everyone, nobody, anyone → singular verb.
 2. Always plural: both → plural verb.
 3. Context-sensitive: some, most, all, none → singular/plural depends on noun.
 4. Intervening phrases (including..., among..., of the...) do not affect agreement.
 5. Verb tense matters: ensure context matches present, past, or perfect forms.
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