

Verbs

Question 1 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which two verbs or verb phrases in this passage show incorrect subject-verb agreement?

Giant Sequoias

The western slopes of the Nevada Mountains, which **are** about 5,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation, are home to the giant sequoia. The dry heat coming from these mountains **enable** the sequoia's cones to release seeds. The giant sequoias can **reach** heights of up to 311 feet. They are immense in size and **weighs** much more than the giant redwoods. The largest living tree in the world, known as General Sherman, is a giant sequoia. It is 275 feet tall and weighs 2.7 million pounds. General Sherman is also the largest living organism on the planet.

Question 2 .

Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- ☐ A. Amidst thunder and lightning, it rained heavily and people were running to find a shelter.
- ☐ B. Ramona unwrapped her birthday gifts as soon as the party is over.
- ☐ C. As soon as the guests left after dinner, Viva will visit her friend next door.
- ☐ D. By the end of next year, I would have saved enough money to buy an iPod for my mom.

Question 3 .

(1) The choir's melodic voices helped Andrew drifts to sleep in the church's front pew. (2) He only woke up when his mother grabbed him by his ear and twisted really hard. (3) Andrew's eyes flies open in surprise. (4) He hadn't even realized that he had fallen asleep. (5) After service was over, Andrew's mom makes him apologize to all the choir members individually. (6) He will feel sorry in more ways than one last Sunday.

Which of these sentences is written **correctly**?

- ☐ A. sentence 6
- ☐ B. sentence 3
- ☐ C. sentence 5
- ☐ D. sentence 2

Question 4 .

Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- ☐ A. Lars, accompanied by Bianca, were late to the party.
- ☐ B. Rizzo and Vintus has worked together for years.
- ☐ C. Here are the poems Truvia wrote for Jydo last year.
- ☐ D. *Tales of the Alhambra* are Ulia's favorite book.

Question 5 .

Choose the sentence that contains an error.

- ☐ A. Alex caught the ball and was throwing it to Ronnie as he was closer to the net.
- ☐ B. Martin will represent his company in the seminar, and his grandparents will be proud of him.
- ☐ C. My dad's fitness regime includes walking a mile followed by climbing the stairs every day.
- ☐ D. The winning team lifted the trophy and ran around the stadium, with wide smiles on their faces.

Question 6 .

Which one of these sentences is written **incorrectly**?

- ☐ A. Jamie Foxx's newest movie were called *The Soloist*, which is based on a true story.
- ☐ B. Hopefully the movie will thoroughly explain all of the murky parts of the plotline.
- ☐ C. Foxx plays a mentally ill homeless man who is also a talented musical prodigy.
- ☐ D. I'm not sure how he goes from attending Julliard to being homeless in Los Angeles.

Question 7 .

(1) "Garnet, I can't believe your mother is letting you turn the basement into a game room," commented Dubois as he opened a can of soda and sat down on the couch. (2) His friend Shazzar nodded as he opened a bag of chips.

(3) "My parents are amazing," Garnet replied with a smile. (4) "They even gave us a box of old movies to watch when we get tired of playing games."

(5) "What kind of movies are in the box?" asked Shazzar. (6) "Most old movies is too boring for me to watch."

(7) "Don't be silly," Garnet said. (8) "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* is being interesting. (9) In fact, *Scaramouche* contain the longest swordfighting scene in cinematic history."

(10) "I love sword fights," said Dubois. (11) "They _____ even more exciting than martial arts."

(12) "That's not true!" Shazzar protested, striking a kung fu pose. (13) "Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, and I _____ with you about that. (14) _____ is the most exciting entertainment in the world."

(15) "We will see about that," said Dubois as he grabbed a broom and a mop from the corner. (16) "I challenges you to a sword fight. (17) Your puny kung fu skills do not frighten me!" (18) As her friends raced around the basement with their makeshift swords, Garnet put her head in her hands and sighed.

(19) "I'm not sure these were the kinds of games my parents had in mind," she said with a wry grin.

Read sentence 13 from the passage.

"Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, and I _____ with you about that."

Choose the correct verb to complete this sentence.

- ☐ A. has a disagreement
- ☐ B. am disagreeing
- ☐ C. disagree
- ☐ D. disagrees

Question 8 .

(1) The choir's melodic voices helped Andrew drifts to sleep in the church's front pew. (2) He only woke up when his mother grabbed him by his ear and twisted really hard. (3) Andrew's eyes flies open in surprise. (4) He hadn't even realized that he had fallen asleep. (5) After service was over, Andrew's mom makes him apologize to all the choir members individually. (6) He will feel sorry in more ways than one last Sunday.

What is the best change, if any, to make to sentence 4?

- ☐ A. Change **hadn't** to **hasn't**.
- ☐ B. It is correct as is.
- ☐ C. Change **realized** to **realizes**.
- ☐ D. Change **had fallen** to **had fell**.

Question 9 .

(1) "Garnet, I can't believe your mother is letting you turn the basement into a game room," commented Dubois as he opened a can of soda and sat down on the couch. (2) His friend Shazzar nodded as he opened a bag of chips.

(3) "My parents are amazing," Garnet replied with a smile. (4) "They even gave us a box of old movies to watch when we get tired of playing games."

(5) "What kind of movies are in the box?" asked Shazzar. (6) "Most old movies is too boring for me to watch."

(7) "Don't be silly," Garnet said. (8) "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* is being interesting. (9) In fact, *Scaramouche* contain the longest swordfighting scene in cinematic history."

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(15) "We will see about that," said Dubois as he grabbed a broom and a mop from the corner. (16) "I challenges you to a sword fight. (17) Your puny kung fu skills do not frighten me!" (18) As her friends raced around the basement with their makeshift swords, Garnet put her head in her hands and sighed.

(19) "I'm not sure these were the kinds of games my parents had in mind," she said with a wry grin.

How should the author rewrite sentence 8?

- ☐ A. "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* being interesting."
- ☐ B. "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* has interesting scenes."
- ☐ C. "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* are interesting."
- ☐ D. "Movies like *Nosferatu* and *Scaramouche* was interesting."

Question 10 .

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Choose the correct verbs to complete the passage.

Sea Otters

The endearing sea otter is an aquatic member of the weasel family. Observers usually them along the coasts of the Pacific Ocean in Asia and North America. These furry mammals in water most of the time. Otters have water repellent fur to help them keep warm. Their ears and nostrils close in winter as protection against the cold, and their feet are webbed. These members of the Weasel family on aquatic creatures such as fish, octopuses, crabs, sea urchins and squid.

Sea Otters have a key role in maintaining the balance of the environment. Their predatory position helps to protect the kelp-ecosystems near the shore. This indirectly reduces the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere as sea-kelp use carbon dioxide.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in number. In the present tense, a singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.
The plural verb "enable" does not agree with the singular subject "heat".
The singular verb "weighs" does not agree with the plural subject "they (Sequoias)".
2. An inappropriate shift in the verb tense can confuse the reader and make reading difficult. It can even obscure the sentence's meaning. To correct the shift, the verbs in the sentence should be in the same tense if the time frame is the same. In the correct sentence, both verbs are in the past and past continuous tense. The other answer choices shift from the past tense to the future or present progressive tense.
3. This entire passage is written in past tense. Sentence 3 should say "Andrew's eyes flew open in surprise." Sentence 5 should say ". . . Andrew's mom made him apologize. . . ." Sentence 6 should say "He felt sorry. . ." or "He was feeling sorry. . ." to denote the past tense verb form.
4. When the normal subject-verb word order is reversed in a sentence, the verb still agrees with the subject. In sentences beginning with **here**, the subject follows the verb. The subject of this sentence is "poems," so the plural verb "are" is correct.
5. An inappropriate shift in the verb tense can confuse the reader and make reading difficult. It can even obscure the sentence's meaning. To correct the shift, the verbs in the sentence should be in the same tense if the time frame is the same. The incorrectly written sentence has verbs that are in the past tense and past progressive tense. To correct this sentence, change the tense of all verbs to the past tense. The correct answer will be "Alex **caught** the ball and **threw** it to Ronnie as he was closer to the net."
6. The subject of the sentence is "movie," which is singular. The correct verb to use here would be "is" because it is a singular verb.
7. Sentence 13 has a plural subject and requires a plural verb. The plural verb "disagree" is the best choice to complete this sentence.
8. The verb tense in this sentence is correct.
9. The subject of sentence 8 is plural and requires a plural verb. The singular verb "is" should be changed to the plural verb "are."
10. Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in number. In the present tense, a singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.
In the first drop-down menu, The plural verb "spot" agrees with the plural subject "observers".
In the second drop-down menu, the plural verb "reside" agrees with the plural subject "mammals".
In the third drop-down menu, the plural verb "feed" agrees with the plural subject "members" (otters).