

Special Cases of Subject / Verb Agreement

1) Subjects with “and”: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) A strong sedative and a local anesthetic _____ (to be) administered.
- 2) Heredity, which is the qualities a person is born with, and environment, the world a person lives in, _____ (to affect) the development of personality.
- 3) During delivery, the mother and the fetus _____ (to be) closely monitored.
- 4) Canola oil and avocado oil _____ (to be) good sources of unsaturated fats in the diet.
- 5) Medication for stress and anxiety _____ (to have) various side effects.
- 6) The nervous system, which sends electrical impulses throughout the body, and the endocrine system, which sends hormones through the blood, _____ (to help) the various parts of the body communicate.
- 7) Often, nausea, vomiting, and visual disturbances _____ (to be) associated with migraine headaches.
- 8) Needle biopsy and punch biopsy _____ (to be) methods of tissue removal.

2) Subjects with “or” and “as well as”: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) The doctor, as well as the nurses, _____ (to like) the old man in Room 38.
- 2) The doctor or the nurses _____ (to visit) him every few hours.

- 3) Psychotherapy, in addition to medications, _____ (to help) people with this condition.
- 4) X-rays, together with an MRI, _____ (to provide) plenty of information for proper diagnosis.
- 5) The nurses or the oncologist _____ (to meet) with the patient after the surgery.
- 6) Anencephaly, as well as other birth defects, _____ (to occur) more often when the mother does not consume enough folic acid during pregnancy.
- 7) Allergies or an infection _____ (to result in) rhinorrhea, or a runny nose.

3) Subjects ending in “-ing”: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) Reducing fever and inflammation _____ (to be) a goal of the treatment.
- 2) Exercising three to four times a week _____ (to help) keep people healthy.
- 3) Using surgical instruments _____ (to require) great skill.
- 4) Processing fats, producing bile, and manufacturing proteins _____ (to be) some of the functions of the liver.
- 5) Removing wastes _____ (to be) another function of the liver.
- 6) Recovering from respiratory infections _____ (to take) a couple of weeks.
- 7) Resting and drinking plenty of fluids _____ (to help) people recover more quickly from the flu.

4) Subjects ending in “s” but requiring a singular verb: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) Measles _____ (to be) characterized by a rash.
- 2) Tumors _____ (to occur) when cells reproduce uncontrollably.
- 3) Physics _____ (to be) a mandatory course for first year medical students.
- 4) Narcotics _____ (to be) painkillers that cause sleepiness.
- 5) The news about the three new patients _____ (to be) not good.
- 6) Rickets _____ (to occur) when a person has a severe deficiency of vitamin D.
- 7) Three weeks _____ (to be) the usual time it takes to recover from a muscle strain.
- 8) A fungus that _____ (to be) used as an antibiotic _____ (to be) called griseofulvin.
- 9) The nucleus _____ (to contain) DNA and RNA.
- 10) Mumps _____ (to lead to) swelling in the salivary glands.
- 12) Myelodysplastic syndromes _____ (to be) serious blood cell disorders.
- 13) In bipolar disorder, a crisis _____ (to involve) feelings of extreme depression or feelings of mania.
- 14) One hundred dinars _____ (to be) the cost of a colonoscopy.
- 15) Multiple sclerosis _____ (to affect) the nervous system.
- 16) Mucus _____ (to moisten) the air that is breathed.
- 17) During a bone marrow transplant, 1.5 liters of bone marrow _____ (to be) removed from the hip bone.

5) Subjects with “of” and other prepositions: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) Most of the book _____ (to be) about biology.
- 2) Most of the doctors _____ (to be) from the Middle East.
- 3) The doctors at this hospital _____ (to know) how to perform arthroscopy.
- 4) Patients with paranoid personality disorder _____ (to believe) that others are constantly trying to harm them.
- 5) An incision of 3 cm _____ (to be) made.
- 6) According to statistics, 20% of patients _____ (to report) pain after this surgery.
- 7) One of the procedures _____ (to be) difficult to perform.
- 8) Some of the procedures _____ (to be) difficult to perform.
- 9) Some of the procedure _____ (to be) difficult to perform.
- 10) The nurses in the cancer ward _____ (to become) exhausted quickly.
- 11) The majority of the medical students _____ (to like) to relax after taking a hard exam.
- 12) All of the equipment _____ (to work).
- 13) The best part of medical courses _____ (to be) learning how the body works.
- 14) Polyps in the colon _____ (to indicate) the possibility of cancer.
- 15) The presence of polyps in the stomach and colon _____ (to indicate) the possibility of cancer.
- 16) Half of the patients _____ (to be) dissatisfied with the food at this hospital.
- 17) None of the surgeons _____ (to be) available right now.

- 18) Treatment for kidney stones _____ (to involve) directing shock waves at the stones.
- 19) Neither of the nurses _____ (to work) the night shift.
- 20) The majority of the world's population _____ (to be) malnourished.
- 21) Complications of this procedure _____ (to include) bleeding and high fever.
- 22) I heard that 40% of the country _____ (to be) obese.
- 23) Each of the side effects _____ (to be) dangerous for people with kidney problems.
- 24) Mucus membranes in the nose _____ (to secrete) mucus.
- 25) Damage to the large blood vessels _____ (to cause) a greater incidence of heart attack in patients with diabetes.
- 26) Children with gigantism _____ (to have) overly large muscles and organs.

6) Adjectives that act plural: Exercise

Directions: In the following sentences, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) The totally deaf often _____ (to read) lips.
- 2) The blind _____ (to rely on) dogs to guide _____ (him / them) through crowded urban traffic.
- 3) The poor _____ (to tend) to have more health problems than people with better incomes. The homeless also _____ (to suffer) from more diseases and _____ (to die) prematurely.
- 4) Only the disabled _____ (to be) permitted to park in places with a blue sign.

- 5) In the United States, a deaf person _____ (to have) the opportunity to attend the American School for the Deaf.
- 6) The elderly who _____ (to live) alone often _____ (to experience) feelings of loneliness and depression.
- 7) The blind _____ (to be) able to use Facebook if _____ (he / they) install special software for the visually-impaired.
- 8) The elderly patient _____ (to like) to share _____ (his / their) life stories with the nurses.
- 9) The National Association for the Deaf is run by the hearing-impaired, who _____ (to promote) rights for people with hearing problems.