

CHAPTER 13: Subject-Verb Agreement

Answer Key

PRACTICE 1

1. Generally, an urban legend (~~appear~~, appears) mysteriously.
2. The stories (~~spread~~, spread) rapidly.
3. A particular legend (~~deal~~, deals) with a common fear.
4. For example, in one story a hitchhiker (~~vanish~~, vanishes).
5. Usually, the speaker (~~say~~, says), "This happened to a friend of a friend."
6. Many urban legends (~~focus~~, focus) on insects or other creatures.
7. For example, a woman (~~buy~~, buys) a cactus, and she (~~take~~, takes) it home.
8. Suddenly, the woman (~~hear~~, hears) a humming sound, and she (~~call~~, calls) the plant store.
9. The store owner (~~tell~~, tells) the woman to put her plant outside.
10. She (~~put~~, puts) the cactus in her backyard.
11. Suddenly, the cactus (~~split~~, splits) in two and tarantulas pour out of it.
12. Many people (~~believe~~, believe) such urban legends.

PRACTICE 2

1. Many urban legends are scary. I am not a superstitious person, but I have a good friend who is very gullible. My friend, Anthony, does tax preparation for a pet store in New York City. The store has baby alligators for sale.
2. Anthony is sure that some customers buy alligators as pets. The alligators are from Florida. Usually, after a few months, the alligators are too big to fit into their aquariums. Customers do an odd thing: they throw the alligators into the sewers. According to Anthony, alligators are alive in New York City's sewer system. I do not believe this urban legend. I have many doubts about his story.

PRACTICE 3

1. Urban legends ^{are} is not new. The “earwig” legend ^C is over one thousand years old. In the story, an earwig ^{has} have an unusual idea. It ^{climbs} climb into the ear of a woman to lay eggs. The eggs ^C hatch, and tiny earwigs ^{eat} eats the brain of the woman. Perhaps people ^C repeat this story because they ^{are} is afraid of insects. Personally, I ^{am} is not afraid of the creatures.
2. Urban legends ^C serve a purpose. They ^{are} is about ordinary people in frightening situations, and each legend ^{warns} warn us about a possible danger. Sometimes, a story ^{has} have a moral. Additionally, when people ^{speak} speaks about a scary or traumatic event, they ^C release their collective anxiety.

PRACTICE 4

1. Benjamin Radford (have has) written many books, including *Hoaxes, Myths, and Manias: Why We Need Critical Thinking*.
2. Most mysteries (is are) not mysterious at all, according to Radford.
3. For example, perhaps giant apelike creatures (live, lives) in the mountainous region between British Columbia and California.
4. Radford (have has) visited the sites where Bigfoot sightings were reported, but he (is, are) not convinced that the evidence is legitimate.
5. He (give gives) interesting reasons for his opinion.
6. First, when a giant ape (die, dies), there should be a dead body, yet no bodies (have, has) been found.
7. Second, many people (claim, claims) that they have seen Bigfoot, but these eyewitness testimonies (is, are) likely unreliable.
8. Sometimes a large mammal may (look, looks) like a giant ape.
9. Finally, believers (refer, refers) to sightings of giant footprints, but in 2000, a man named Ray Wallace admitted that he and his son made fake footprints.

10. They (was, were) just making a joke, and they (was, were) surprised when many people believed them.

11. Many people (continue, continues) to believe in Bigfoot.

12. Radford (admit, admits) that the legend will probably continue for centuries.

PRACTICE 5

1. (Is, Are) there ancient ruins in the southern part of England?

2. What (do, does) people see when they visit Stonehenge?

3. When (do, does) the summer solstice occur?

4. Why (is, are) the giant stones arranged in a circular pattern?

5. What (do, does) the tour guide say about the stones?

6. How much (do, does) a ticket cost to visit Stonehenge?

7. (Is, Are) each stone larger than a house?

8. (Is, Are) religious groups attracted to Stonehenge?

9. (Have, has) many authors written about the mysterious ruins?

10. (Do, Does) tourists visit Stonehenge each year?

PRACTICE 6

are

1. There ~~is~~ many stories about Anna Madeo. _____

Does

2. ~~Do~~ she see the future? _____

3. There are five customers waiting for Anna to read their palms. C

Are

4. ~~Is~~ her predictions often correct? _____

are

5. There ~~is~~ some strange coincidences. _____

Does

6. ~~Do~~ that woman have a special gift? _____

7. Do you know Anna Madeo? C

are

8. There ~~is~~ many possible reasons for her popularity. _____

PRACTICE 7

1. In 1872, the Mary Celeste (~~was~~, were) launched from New York.
2. There (was, ~~were~~) ten people on the ship when it left port.
3. Later, the ship (~~was~~, were) found floating in the sea, but no survivors (was, ~~were~~) on board.
4. Neither the captain nor the crew members (was, ~~were~~) ever found.
5. Today, there (is, ~~are~~) many versions of the story.
6. Many theories (~~have~~, has) been put forward.
7. Maybe strong winds or a giant storm (~~was~~, were) responsible for the missing crew members.
8. Perhaps either one or several crew members (was, ~~were~~) violent and murderous.
9. Maybe man-eating monsters (~~live~~, lives) in the sea.
10. (~~Do~~, Does) you (~~know~~, knows) the true story?

PRACTICE 8

1. In 1859, Charles Darwin wrote *On the Origin of Species*. In Victorian England, Darwin's ideas (was, ~~were~~) regarded as a threat to Christianity. Years later, the theory of evolution (~~was~~, were) still controversial.
2. In 1925, John Scopes (~~was~~, were) accused of breaking the "Butler Act" by teaching Tennessee biology students about evolution. According to the Butler Act, if anybody (teach, ~~teaches~~) a theory that denies the story of divine creation, it is unlawful. The Scopes Monkey Trial lasted for fifteen days, but nobody (~~was~~, were) prepared for defense lawyer Clarence Darrow's decision. He asked the jury to find his client guilty because he wanted to take the case to the Tennessee supreme court.
3. Today, there (is, ~~are~~) debates about the teaching of religion and science in schools. In this country, one controversial issue (~~is~~, are) school prayer. Some (~~think~~, thinks) that students should pray every day under the direction of a teacher. Others (~~disagree~~, disagrees) and (~~argue~~, argues) that parents, not schools, should teach religion and morality.

4. If someone (say, says) that the United States is a multicultural society with a variety of religious beliefs, then someone else (reply, replies) that it was founded on a Christian theistic base and that school prayer is necessary. Certainly, everyone (has, have) an opinion about this issue.

PRACTICE 9

1. Scientists and other rational thinkers (is, are) likely to question the existence of a spirit world. However, even skeptics (admit, admits) that they may not know the whole truth.
army class crowd group population association club family jury public audience
committee gang mob society band company government organization team

2. In *The Power of Myth*, Joseph Campbell (state, states), “A fairy tale is the child’s myth. There (is, are) proper myths for proper times of life. As you (grow, grows) older, you (need, needs) a sturdier mythology.” Every society (invent, invents) stories to try to explain basic truths.

3. In the Chinese lunar tradition, the seventh month (is, are) “ghost month.” During ghost month, a gate (separate, separates) the spirit world from the normal world. It (open, opens), and the spirits (enter, enters) the human world. Buddhist priests (pray, prays) to subdue the spirits. A band (play, plays) music to welcome the spirits, and the crowd (listen, listens) with reverence. In China, a typical family (welcome, welcomes) the ghosts during ghost month.

4. Each nation (have, has) its own version of ghost stories. As long as everyone (have, has) questions about death and the afterlife, religious scholars will continue to examine the spirit world.

PRACTICE 10

1. One (of this era’s most enduring legends) (is) / are the Dracula legend.

2. Tales (about vampires) was / were common in Eastern Europe and India.

3. The story (about the blood-drinking human) (was) / were especially popular after Bram Stoker wrote the novel *Dracula* in 1897.

4. Current myths (about vampires) (emphasize) / emphasizes the creature’s aversion to sunlight, garlic, and the symbol of the cross.

5. Some believers (in Eastern Europe) (surround) / surrounds their homes with garlic.

6. Many Internet sites, (such as Vampires.com), (cater) / caters to people’s interest in vampires.

7. Several movies, (such as one with Bela Lugosi), is ~~(are)~~ about vampires.
8. Some legends, (especially the Dracula legend), lasts ~~(last)~~ a long time.

PRACTICE 11

1. Villains and heroes in most gothic novels ~~is~~ ^{are} distinct. _____
2. Evil characters, including Dracula, ~~does~~ ^{do} not have a good side. _____
3. One novel, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, ~~show~~ ^{shows} us two sides of human nature. _____
4. The hero of the story has a dark side. C
5. Sometimes Dr. Jekyll, away from the prying eyes of others, ~~drink~~ ^{drinks} a powerful potion. _____
6. His personality, usually very sweet and friendly, changes completely. C
7. The doctor, with a lack of control, ~~become~~ ^{becomes} the evil Mr. Hyde. _____
8. Both characters, however, ~~resides~~ ^{reside} within the same man. _____
9. In the novel, Robert Louis Stevenson shows us a shocking truth. C
10. Both good and evil exist within us. C
11. A play about Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde ~~are~~ ^{is} at the regional theater. _____
12. Tickets to Saturday's show ~~is~~ ^{are} sold out. _____

PRACTICE 12

1. During the past two or three days, several cases of young children straying from home ~~(have, has)~~ occurred. In all these cases, the children ~~(was, were)~~ too young to give properly intelligible accounts of events. Most of the children who ~~(have, has)~~ gone missing ~~(say, says)~~ that they ~~(have, has)~~ been with a "bloofer lady." It ~~(have, has)~~ always been late in the evening when they ~~(have, has)~~ been missed, and on two occasions the children ~~(have, has)~~ not been found until early the following morning.
2. Some of the children, indeed all who ~~(have, has)~~ been missed at night, ~~(have, has)~~ been slightly torn or wounded in the throat. The wounds ~~(seem, seems)~~ such as might be made by a rat or a small dog. The animal that ~~(inflict, inflicts)~~ the wounds ~~(have, has)~~ a system or method of its own. The police officers of the division ~~(have, has)~~ been instructed to keep a sharp lookout for straying children, especially those who ~~(is, are)~~ very young.

FINAL REVIEW

1. Crop-circle patterns ~~is~~ ^{are} often quite complex. Sometimes a farmer ~~do~~ ^{does} not realize that a circle is there. It is discovered only when a plane flies over the field, and the pilot or the passengers ~~sees~~ ^{see} it. There ~~is~~ ^{are} different opinions about the origins of crop circles.

2. Explanations for these circles ~~varies~~ ^{vary} greatly. There ~~is~~ ^{are} those people who believe that aliens made them and others who think that the circles ~~occurs~~ ^{occur} naturally. For example, Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado, authors of a book about crop circles, ~~attempts~~ ^{attempt} to persuade readers that crop circles ~~transmits~~ ^{transmit} spiritual messages. Other researchers, such as Dr. Terrence Meaden, ~~suggests~~ ^{suggest} that spiral patterns are caused by a whirlwind vortex. Neither Meaden nor his colleagues ~~believes~~ ^{believe} that the circles are caused by supernatural forces.

3. Skeptics think that somebody ~~create~~ ^{creates} each crop circle by dragging a heavy wooden plank in a circular pattern. However, crop-circle enthusiasts such as Colin Andrews ~~insists~~ ^{insist} that humans always break the wheat instead of bending it. Others ~~points~~ ^{point} out that moist green wheat bends easily during the summer.

4. Nobody ~~know~~ ^{knows} why the patterns appear in farmers' fields or why the crop-circle sightings have increased tremendously since the 1970s.