

Find the Errors!

PROOFREADING ACTIVITIES

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14. Peaceful Coexistence

Background Information

Exercise 14 deals with agreement of subject and verb. The rules are as follows:

Rule 1: Use a singular verb with a singular subject.

Rule 2: Use a plural verb with a plural subject.

Rule 3: The number of the subject is not changed by a phrase following the subject.
(*Example:* This tree, unlike some others, grows quickly.)

Rule 4: These pronouns are singular: each, either, neither, one, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody, someone, and somebody.

(*Example:* Each of us *is* coming.)

Rule 5: These pronouns are plural: several, few, both, and many.

(*Example:* Several of us *are* coming.)

Rule 6: These pronouns may be either singular or plural: *some, all, most, any, or none.*

(*Examples:* Most of the play was interesting. Most of the plays we saw were interesting.)

Rule 7: Subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb.

(*Example:* Joe and Mary are coming to visit.)

Rule 8: Singular subjects joined by *or* or *nor* take singular verbs.

(*Example:* Joe or Mary *is* coming to visit.)

Rule 9: If a singular subject and a plural subject are joined by *or* or *nor* the verb agrees with the subject nearer the verb.

(*Example:* Two boys or one girl *is* still able to sign up.)

Rule 10: Words stating amounts are usually singular.

(*Example:* Twenty-five dollars *is* the entrance fee.)

Rule 11: *Every* or *many a* before a subject calls for a singular verb.

(*Example:* Many a songwriter starts in Nashville.)

Answer Key

Each verb in the story that was used incorrectly has been marked with an asterisk (*) and corrected. Each word that was spelled incorrectly has been underlined and respelled correctly. The misspelled words are *license*, *naturally*, *successfully*, *beginning*, and *relief*.

Jim is preparing for his driver's license exam. First, with the help of his two older brothers, Jim *practices driving the family car around town. Jim knows that the rules in the driver's handbook *need to be learned. Jim's driving handbook, unlike his other school books, *rates careful study every evening. Naturally, every one of Jim's friends wants to pass the exam, too. Even the most reluctant students *study hard for the driver's license exam.

Finally, the day for the written and driving tests arrives. A written test of the road rules starts the exam. Each question on driving and car use *is carefully and correctly answered. Jim scores 100 percent. The test for his eyes presents no problem for him either.

Then the actual driving section of the tests *begins. Jim completes each of the maneuvers successfully. In fact, Jim, unlike many of his friends, *has driven a nearly perfect exam. But Jim, like so many beginning drivers on the first try, does not get his license.

Jim makes his only mistake as he stops slowly and carefully to let his examiner out of the car. Breathing a sigh of relief, Jim exclaims, "Boy, I'm sure glad I don't have to drive like that all the time!"

Additional Activities

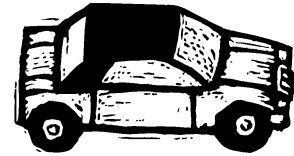
1. Write additional sentences on the board, making agreement errors in some and not in others. Include several sentences illustrating each rule on the teacher guide page. Have students decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

2. Have students write a paragraph about their favorite and least favorite foods using sentences with compound subjects. Be sure the subject and verb agree in each sentence.
3. Have students write a sentence to illustrate each of the 11 rules on subject-verb agreement listed on the teacher guide page.
4. Divide the class in half. Have one group of students write sentences with correct or incorrect subject-verb agreement on the board. Have the other team tell whether the sentence is correct. Keep score.

14. Peaceful Coexistence

Directions: The story below contains several errors in the agreement of subject and verb. Look carefully at each underlined verb in the story. If it is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form of the verb above it. Circle the five misspelled words. Rewrite each word correctly in the Spelling Box.

Jim is preparing for his driver’s lisence exam. First, with the help of his two older brothers, Jim practice driving the family car around town. Jim knows that the rules in the driver’s handbook needs to be learned. Jim’s driving handbook, unlike his other school books, rate careful study every evening. Naturally, every one of Jim’s friends wants to pass the exam, too. Even the most reluctant students studies hard for the driver’s license exam.



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Jim makes his only mistake as he stops slowly and carefully to let his examiner out of the car. Breathing a sigh of releif, Jim exclaims, “Boy, I’m sure glad I don’t have to drive like that all the time!”

SPELLING BOX	1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____	5. _____

16. Puzzling Pronouns

Directions: There are several pronoun errors in the story below. Cross out each incorrect pronoun and write the correct pronoun above it. Circle the five misspelled words. Rewrite each word correctly in the Spelling Box.

A father and his 16-year-old twin sons, Bill and Will, were discussing they're family budget problems. Bill said, "It doesn't seem like much to you, Dad, but it's important to Will and me to have the right cloths."

"Yes," Will added, "Me and Bill need money for our activities and hobbies, too."



"And," continued Bill, "may Will and I please borrow \$25 for our dates Friday night?"

"Boys!" said their father sternly, "your mother and me want you to have the best. You are our's and it's great! But theirs no money tree in our backyard!"

The next evening the father was met at the door by his wife. She burst out excitedly, "Gess what, dear? You and me have finally taught those sons of our's the value of a dollar. All those lectures of your's have payed off. Bill said that the thing Will and him want for that upcoming birthday of there's will only cost \$1 apeace."

"Well, well!" replied the father, "now that's what you and me like to hear. And what do those boys of ours want?"

"Their own keys to the car!" answered the proud mother.

SPELLING BOX	1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____	5. _____

