Subject-Verb Agreement – Exercise 1

Directions: In the blank, use the correct present tense form of the infinitive given at the beginning of each sentence. Check your answers with the interactive version of the exercise.

1. to have: The cracked windshield, in addition to the torn upholstery and rusted body, ______ made Ruth’s old car difficult to sell.

2. to be: This week’s National Inquisitor claims that there ______ photographs of the Loch Ness Monster eating Elvis.

3. to work: At Tito’s Taco Palace ______ friends who will stuff double meat into our burritos for free.

4. to crawl: On the tables in the library ______ the many germs that have escaped in the hot breath of hardworking students.

5. to be: None of this breakfast that Lilly Mae cooked ______ fit to eat.

6. to taste: None of these chocolate-broccoli muffins ______ good, either.

7. to have: The whole red ant colony, including the queen and all of her drones, ______ swarmed over Tommy’s feet, stinging his ankles.

8. to make: Fifteen gallons of chocolate milk ______ Herbert the elephant a happy pachyderm.

9. to hope: Everyone on the roller coaster, including Martha and Angie, ______ that the hot dogs, onion rings, funnel cake, and cotton candy will stay down during the twisting ride to come.
10. **to bother**: Neither Fred’s ratty clothes nor his sullen attitude _______ Esmeralda, who lets Fred pick up the check every time they dine out.

11. **to hug**: That pair of jeans _______ the curves of Hannah’s body as nicely as tinfoil on a baked potato.

12. **to annoy**: Neither the coughing muffler nor the squeaky brakes _______ Ruth as much as the broken radio in her old car.

13. **to get**: Florida alligators usually _______ severe indigestion after eating poodles.

14. **to cling**: Every cat hair, candy wrapper, and loose thread _______ to the supercharged polyester pants that Theodora loves to wear.

15. **to know**: Any one of Ms. Orsini’s students _______ the rules that govern subject-verb agreement.

16. **to take**: The shine on my hardwood floors _______ abuse from the ragged toenails of Floyd, my dog.

17. **to have**: Neither of those students _______ a clue about the rules governing subject-verb agreement. Pity them both during the quiz.

18. **to make**: Patience and compassion, in addition to a wallet bulging with money, _______ everyone want Jordan as a friend.

19. **to require**: Statistics _______ so much homework that Michelle’s poor fingers have permanent indentations from the calculator pads.

20. **to come**: The committee _______ from all parts of the city, so we usually have to start late because so many members get stuck in traffic.

21. **to believe**: The committee _______ that waiting until everyone arrives is more important than starting on time.
22. **to be**: When Dad is angry, there ______ fire flickering in his eyes as well as smoke escaping from his ears.

23. **to brighten**: When Matthew is having a bad day, old episodes of *The X-Files* always ______ his mood.

24. **to hit**: Each of those opera singers regularly ______ notes high enough to break glass and rupture eardrums.

25. **to be**: Either the fried oyster sandwich or shrimp pizza ______ the best choice for lunch at Crusty’s Seafood Restaurant.