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 super-charged 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.