

Subject-Verb Agreement – Exercise 5

This handout accompanies Exercise 5 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Choose the correct *present tense* verb form for the sentences below.

1. The dead trees and peeling paint, along with the broken windows and flapping shutters, _____ everyone believe that evil spirits haunt the deserted Sinclair house.
 - A. made
 - B. has made
 - C. makes
 - D. make

2. Where _____ the earrings that I left by the bathroom sink? Oh no! That stupid cat has swatted them down the drain again!
 - A. was
 - B. were
 - C. is
 - D. are

3. Neither of those sharks circling your boogie board _____ hungry enough to bite.
 - A. looks
 - B. look
 - C. looked
 - D. had looked

4. One hundred and fifty gallons _____ the amount of liquid the average living room rug can absorb. Rachel discovered this fact after taking a long shower when the curtain wasn't tucked inside the tub.
 - A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. were

5. Agnes never loses a single possession. Everyone knows what belongs to her, for each pen, pencil, and paperclip _____ a tiny flag attached with Agnes' full name on it.
 - A. will have
 - B. has
 - C. have
 - D. had

6. Asteroids and comets slamming into Earth _____ Marge; she tries to remain under the protective cover of her roof as much as possible.
 - A. worries
 - B. worry
 - C. worried
 - D. used to worry

7. Someone—perhaps Emmanuel or Paul—_____ the right wine to serve with earthworm lasagna.
- A. knew
 - B. will know
 - C. knows
 - D. know
8. These scissors _____ so dull that I'm not sure you could slice butter with them!
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. has been
 - D. had been
9. Physics _____ proven to be Jerry's easiest subject this semester. He brings Carol, the lab assistant, an oatmeal-raisin cookie, and, as his reward, she finishes his report.
- A. has
 - B. have
 - C. had
 - D. will have
10. The good jewelry Dad gave Sara for graduation _____ more than the cheap leather wallet that David got as his reward for finishing high school.
- A. costs
 - B. cost
 - C. will cost
 - D. had cost
11. At Wendy's Washateria, all of the dryers _____ six quarters before spinning wet clothes dry.
- A. gobbles
 - B. gobble
 - C. gobbled
 - D. will gobble
12. At Wendy's Washateria, each of the industrial washing machines _____ so forcefully during the spin cycle that new patrons dash outside, convinced that an earthquake is shaking the building.
- A. rocks
 - B. rock
 - C. rocked
 - D. will rock
13. Everyone at Wendy's Washateria, even Myra and old Mrs. Webster, _____ that she could afford her own washer and dryer at home.
- A. wished
 - B. have wished
 - C. wish
 - D. wishes

14. Every cereal bowl and casserole dish _____ slipped out of Sheila's soapy hands and shattered on the hard tile of the kitchen floor. Sheila really needs to buy a dishwasher.
- A. has
 - B. have
 - C. will have
 - D. had
15. Not only fat caterpillars but also my neighbor's rabbits _____ chewed my poor tomato plants to leafless nubs.
- A. has
 - B. have
 - C. will have
 - D. had
16. Two cups of sliced jalapeno peppers _____ extreme for a single batch of burrito filling, but that's the amount in Felipe's recipe.
- A. seemed
 - B. had seemed
 - C. seems
 - D. seem
17. Even after winning the away game, the girl's basketball team _____ gloomy because Coach Cox will insist that the players return to their hotel rooms to study for next week's classes.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. were
18. Either *The Matrix* or *Aliens* _____ Sam's favorite science-fiction movie.
- A. was
 - B. were
 - C. is
 - D. are
19. The eight slots on Pam's extra large toaster _____ that no one has to fight over frozen waffles during breakfast.
- A. meant
 - B. will mean
 - C. means
 - D. mean
20. "Here _____ the box of broken appliances that you promised to repair," Bob reminded Sue, his wife.
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. will be
 - D. have been

21. Statistics _____ become Matt's favorite subject because for fifty minutes three times a week he gets to study the beautiful curls on the back of Betty's head.
- A. has
 - B. have
 - C. had
 - D. will have
22. Elton's newest pair of eyeglasses _____ corrected his vision so well that this young man clearly sees the lovely Miranda sneering at his nerdy appearance.
- A. have
 - B. had
 - C. has
 - D. will have
23. The class _____ about the solution to the stuffy condition of the room; ten students want to open the window, but the others remember the flood of frightened cockroaches that poured in the last time Mr. Frampton released the window from the frame.
- A. disagrees
 - B. disagree
 - C. disagreed
 - D. will continue to disagree
24. When the fire alarm starts ringing, Mrs. Hoff is one of those teachers who _____ that class continue on the lawn outside.
- A. insists
 - B. insist
 - C. insisted
 - D. has insisted
25. Mrs. Hoff and Mrs. Phillips _____ that class time is precious and should not be wasted because of someone's immature prank.
- A. believes
 - B. believe
 - C. believed
 - D. will believe



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