

**Preparatory Task**

**Read the following sentences and identify the errors in them:**

1. Now horses serves people in different ways.
2. Zebras and donkeys belongs to the same biological family.
3. A mature house stand about 3 meters high.
4. The ancient horse have developed into the heavy draft horse.
5. Rs. 750/- are a minimum salary.

**The errors you have identified in the above sentences are subject-verb disagreements.**

- A verb must agree with its subject in number. Number refers to whether a word is singular or plural. Singular subjects take singular verbs; plural subjects take plural verbs.
- Some words that may seem plural, such as everyone, anyone, no one, each, either, and neither, are grammatically singular
  - Everyone enjoys a cup of hot coffee on a rainy day.
  - Neither of us wants to spend all weekend cleaning house.
- Titles or names that end in “s” may be singular.
  - All my Sons is my brother’s favorite novel.
  - Online Learning Services is located at Chennai.
- When two nouns are joined by “or” or “nor,” the noun closest to the verb determines whether the verb should be singular or plural:
  - Neither Ram nor my sisters enjoy barathanatiam.
  - Neither my sisters nor Ram enjoys barathanatiam.
- Indefinite pronouns such as *both, few, many and several are plural.*
  - Many of us sometimes forget to bring lunch.
  - Both of my brothers like fishing.

- Word *Most and All* may be singular or plural depending upon their use in the sentence.
  - Most of the news is good. (singular)
  - Most of the potatoes were rotten. (plural)
  - All of the information was gone. (singular)
  - All of the children were late. (plural)

### Activity 1

**Fill in the blanks with appropriate verb forms given in the parentheses:**

The term quarter horse \_\_\_\_\_ (identify/identifies) a special American breed of horse. They \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) so named, because they are the fastest horses in the quarter-mile race. These horses \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) first bred over 200 years ago. In those days, the race track \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) cut through dense forests and rarely ran more than a quarter-mile long. In the American West of today, people \_\_\_\_\_ (use/uses) this horse for work that requires quick starts and fast turns. Young horses (are/is) known as foals. Off the Virginia coast, Chincoteague Island \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) become noted for its annual wild pony roundup and auction.

### Activity 2

**Identify and revise the subject-verb agreement errors in this passage:**

Mohan and his friend, Geetha, is coming to visit me next weekend. Unfortunately, neither of them are very interesting. Every time they visit, Geetha sleeps about eighteen hours a day, and Mohan tells childhood stories over and over. There is only about three stories in his entire collection, and, although he find them amusing, neither his stories nor his one and only joke are funny at all. I try to get him to discuss other topics, but economics are his only real interest, and I don't find that topic very interesting either. I hate to admit it, but I hope the days they spend with me passes quickly.

### Activity 3

**Identify the correct verb in the sentences below.**

1. Each of the girls (look-looks) good on skis.
2. Everybody (was-were) instructed to remain silent.
3. Neither of the men (is-are) here yet.
4. (Is-Are) each of the boys ready to leave?
5. Several of the sheep (is-are) sick.
6. Some members of the faculty (is-are) present.

7. Nobody in the class (has-have) the answer.
8. Each of the girls (observe-observes) all the regulations.
9. All of the milk (is-are) gone.
10. Most of the seats (was-were) taken.

(Answers: 1. looks 2.was 3.is 4.is 5.are 6.are 7.has 8.observes 9.is 10. were)