Verb Match Mystery

Look past the words between the subject and verb.

6.LL.15 "Identify the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in published texts. a. Identify subject-verb agreement when interrupted by a prepositional phrase, with inverted word order, and with indefinite pronouns as subjects. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

VERB MATCHES

The verb agrees with the subject, not with a noun in the phrase between them. A singular subject usually takes a present-tense verb ending in -s.

A bouquet beside the windows smells sweet.

VERB DOES NOT MATCH

The verb does not agree with the subject. A noun in the phrase between them may have led the writer to choose the wrong verb.

The lantern above the shelves glow softly.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle MATCH or MISMATCH for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain how you used each subject and verb to decide.

1. The stack of notebooks sit on the desk. MATCH MISMATCH

2. The musicians in the hallway rehearse daily. MATCH MISMATCH

3. The key to the cabinets hangs by the door. MATCH MISMATCH

4. The paintings in the gallery looks faded. MATCH MISMATCH

5. The captain of the teams leads the parade. MATCH MISMATCH

6. The pencils inside the box needs sharpening. MATCH MISMATCH

7. The dogs near the fence bark at squirrels. MATCH MISMATCH

8. The recipe for the cookies calls for cinnamon. MATCH MISMATCH

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new sentences with a phrase between the subject and verb, one MATCH and one MISMATCH.

MATCH _____

MISMATCH _____

CHALLENGE

Write a MISMATCH sentence with a plural subject and a singular noun in the phrase between the subject and verb, then rewrite it so the verb agrees.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Match Mystery

GRADE 6 · 6.LL.15

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The stack of notebooks sit on the desk.	**MISMATCH**	The singular subject stack needs sits, not sit.
2	The musicians in the hallway rehearse daily.	**MATCH**	The plural subject musicians agrees with rehearse.
3	The key to the cabinets hangs by the door.	**MATCH**	The singular subject key agrees with hangs.
4	The paintings in the gallery looks faded.	**MISMATCH**	The plural subject paintings needs look, not looks.
5	The captain of the teams leads the parade.	**MATCH**	The singular subject captain agrees with leads.
6	The pencils inside the box needs sharpening.	**MISMATCH**	The plural subject pencils needs need, not needs.
7	The dogs near the fence bark at squirrels.	**MATCH**	The plural subject dogs agrees with bark.
8	The recipe for the cookies calls for cinnamon.	**MATCH**	The singular subject recipe agrees with calls.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MATCH**: The bicycle beside the cars rolls smoothly.
- **MISMATCH**: The runners on the track sprints quickly.

Challenge: The birds near the pond sings loudly. The birds near the pond sing loudly.

For the two explanations, accept answers that identify the subject and explain whether the verb agrees with it, rather than with a noun in the intervening phrase. Corrections for the mismatches are 1: sits, 4: look, and 6: need.