Verb Match Detective

Spot when subjects and verbs fit.

5.LF.39.d "Use subject-verb agreement correctly when composing and revising writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT AND VERB AGREE

In these present-tense sentences, one person or thing usually takes a verb ending in s. More than one usually takes a verb without s.

The baker kneads dough.

SUBJECT AND VERB CLASH

The subject and verb do not match. A verb for one is used with a subject that names more than one, or the other way around.

The whales dives.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle AGREE or CLASH for each sentence, then in Part 2 choose one item from each category and explain how the subject and verb led to your choice.

1.	The fox runs across the field.	AGREE CLASH
2.	The birds sing at dawn.	AGREE CLASH
3.	The teacher explain the game.	AGREE CLASH
4.	The lanterns glow at night.	AGREE CLASH
5.	The puppy chase the ball.	AGREE CLASH
6.	The students in the library reads quietly.	AGREE CLASH
7.	A stack of books sits by the door.	AGREE CLASH
8.	The rain falls on the roof.	AGREE CLASH

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how the subject and verb led to your choice.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a subject and verb that agree and one with a subject and verb that clash; label each AGREE or CLASH.

AGREE _____

CLASH _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a phrase between the subject and verb, then explain why the verb agrees with the subject.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Match Detective

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.39.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The fox runs across the field.	**AGREE**	Fox is singular, and runs matches it.
2	The birds sing at dawn.	**AGREE**	Birds is plural, and sing matches it.
3	The teacher explain the game.	**CLASH**	Teacher is singular, but explain does not match it.
4	The lanterns glow at night.	**AGREE**	Lanterns is plural, and glow matches it.
5	The puppy chase the ball.	**CLASH**	Puppy is singular, but chase does not match it.
6	The students in the library reads quietly.	**CLASH**	Students is plural, but reads does not match it.
7	A stack of books sits by the door.	**AGREE**	Stack is singular, and sits matches it.
8	The rain falls on the roof.	**AGREE**	Rain is singular, and falls matches it.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how the subject and verb led to your choice. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **AGREE**: The frogs jump over puddles.
- **CLASH**: The artist paint a portrait.

Challenge: The basket of apples sits on the shelf. Basket is singular, so sits matches it.

In Part 2, look for explanations that name the subject and verb in each chosen sentence. In item 6, students is the subject, not library.