Subject Sleuth

Find the subject, then check the verb.

6.LL.15.a "Identify subject-verb agreement when interrupted by a prepositional phrase, with inverted word order, and with indefinite pronouns as subjects."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MATCH

The verb agrees with the subject. A phrase may come between them, or the subject may come after the verb.

Everybody admires the mural.

MISMATCH

The verb does not agree with the subject. Check the subject, not a noun that happens to be closer to the verb.

Across the valley races the bicycles.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle MATCH or MISMATCH for each sentence; in Part 2, choose two numbered items and explain how the subject and verb helped you decide.

1.	The stack of comics sits on the shelf.	MATCH MISMATCH
2.	Here come the drummers.	MATCH MISMATCH
3.	Someone near the lockers need a pencil.	MATCH MISMATCH
4.	The jar of buttons is on the desk.	MATCH MISMATCH
5.	Behind the curtains stand a magician.	MATCH MISMATCH
6.	Each of the actors know the ending.	MATCH MISMATCH
7.	Nobody at the campsite wants soup.	MATCH MISMATCH
8.	There are three lanterns by the gate.	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 one new MATCH sentence and one new MISMATCH sentence. In each sentence, put a prepositional phrase between the subject and the verb.

MATCH _____

MISMATCH _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with the subject after the verb and a MISMATCH. Then rewrite it with a MATCH.

ANSWER KEY # Subject Sleuth

GRADE 6 · 6.LL.15.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The stack of comics sits on the shelf.	**MATCH**	The singular subject stack agrees with sits.
2	Here come the drummers.	**MATCH**	The plural subject drummers follows the verb and agrees with come.
3	Someone near the lockers need a pencil.	**MISMATCH**	The singular subject someone requires needs.
4	The jar of buttons is on the desk.	**MATCH**	The singular subject jar agrees with is, despite the nearby plural noun buttons.
5	Behind the curtains stand a magician.	**MISMATCH**	The singular subject magician follows the verb and requires stands.
6	Each of the actors know the ending.	**MISMATCH**	The singular subject each requires knows, despite the plural noun actors.
7	Nobody at the campsite wants soup.	**MATCH**	The singular subject nobody agrees with wants.
8	There are three lanterns by the gate.	**MATCH**	The plural subject lanterns follows the verb and agrees with are.

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 box of crayons fits in my bag.
- **MISMATCH**: The pile of blankets cover the chair.

Challenge: On the porch sits two puppies. On the porch sit two puppies.

Part 2 explanations should name the subject and show whether the verb agrees with it. In Part 3, the phrase between the subject and verb must not change which verb form is needed.