Verb Match Sort

Look at the whole subject before you choose.

7.LL.17.a "Identify subject-verb agreement with compound subjects joined by correlative and coordinating conjunctions and with collective nouns when verb form depends on the rest of the sentence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

VERB MATCHES

Subjects joined by and or both … and take a plural verb. With either … or and neither … nor, the verb matches the closer subject. A collective noun takes a singular verb when the group acts as one unit.

Both the puppy and the kitten sleep indoors.

VERB DOES NOT MATCH

The verb does not match when it ignores a plural pair, the closer subject in an or/nor pair, or a collective noun acting as one unit.

Both the wheel and the axle turns slowly.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle MATCH or MISMATCH.

1. The pencils and the eraser are in the drawer. MATCH MISMATCH
2. Neither the coach nor the players are late. MATCH MISMATCH
3. Either the posters or the sign are missing. MATCH MISMATCH
4. The orchestra of musicians play a single tune. MATCH MISMATCH
5. The lantern and the map is on the shelf. MATCH MISMATCH
6. Either the dancers or the drummer is ready. MATCH MISMATCH
7. Neither the captain nor the sailors is on deck. MATCH MISMATCH
8. The team of runners follows one route. MATCH MISMATCH

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a matching verb and one with a mismatched verb.

MATCH

MISMATCH

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using either ... or with one singular subject and one plural subject, then switch their order and change the verb so it still matches.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Match Sort

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The pencils and the eraser are in the drawer.	**MATCH**	The subjects joined by and take the plural verb are.
2	Neither the coach nor the players are late.	**MATCH**	The plural subject players is closer to the verb, so are agrees.
3	Either the posters or the sign are missing.	**MISMATCH**	The singular subject sign is closer to the verb; use is.
4	The orchestra of musicians play a single tune.	**MISMATCH**	The orchestra acts as one unit; use plays.
5	The lantern and the map is on the shelf.	**MISMATCH**	The subjects joined by and need the plural verb are.
6	Either the dancers or the drummer is ready.	**MATCH**	The singular subject drummer is closer to the verb, so is agrees.
7	Neither the captain nor the sailors is on deck.	**MISMATCH**	The plural subject sailors is closer to the verb; use are.
8	The team of runners follows one route.	**MATCH**	The team acts as one unit, so the singular verb follows agrees.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belongs.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MATCH**: Neither the singers nor the pianist is nervous.
- **MISMATCH**: The basket of apples sit by the door.

Challenge: Either the frogs or the turtle is in the pond. Either the turtle or the frogs are in the pond.

Part 3 samples are listed in MATCH, then MISMATCH order. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the relevant subjects and show why the verb agrees or does not agree.