Verb Match Detectives

Sort sentences by subject and verb agreement.

5.5.W.3 "Students will recognize and correct the following: run-ons, errors in subject and verb agreement, inappropriate shifts in verb tense, and inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT AND VERB MATCH

The verb fits the subject. In the present tense, a verb often ends in -s when the subject names one person or thing.

One otter swims upstream.

SUBJECT AND VERB CLASH

The verb does not fit the subject. Find who or what does the action, then check the verb.

Several lanterns glows brightly.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle MATCH or CLASH for each sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how each subject and verb helped you decide.

1. The hikers carry water bottles. MATCH CLASH

2. The captain steer the boat. MATCH CLASH

3. The feathers on the pillow feels soft. MATCH CLASH

4. My cousins visit the museum. MATCH CLASH

5. A box of crayons sits on the shelf. MATCH CLASH

6. The students in the hallway waits quietly. MATCH CLASH

7. The baker kneads the dough. MATCH CLASH

8. The gears inside the clock turn slowly. MATCH CLASH

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how each subject and verb helped you decide.

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 match and one with a subject and verb that clash.

MATCH _____

CLASH _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your CLASH sentence so its subject and verb match, then name the word you changed.

ANSWER KEY # Verb Match Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.5.W.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers carry water bottles.	**MATCH**	Hikers is plural, and carry agrees with it.
2	The captain steer the boat.	**CLASH**	Captain is singular, so the verb should be steers.
3	The feathers on the pillow feels soft.	**CLASH**	Feathers is plural, so the verb should be feel.
4	My cousins visit the museum.	**MATCH**	Cousins is plural, and visit agrees with it.
5	A box of crayons sits on the shelf.	**MATCH**	Box is singular, and sits agrees with it.
6	The students in the hallway waits quietly.	**CLASH**	Students is plural, so the verb should be wait.
7	The baker kneads the dough.	**MATCH**	Baker is singular, and kneads agrees with it.
8	The gears inside the clock turn slowly.	**MATCH**	Gears is plural, and turn agrees with it.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how each subject and verb helped you decide. 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 frogs leap across the pond.
- **CLASH**: A squirrel gather acorns.

Challenge: A squirrel gathers acorns. I changed gather to gathers.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the subject and explain whether the verb agrees with it. For example, in item 3, feathers is plural, so feels clashes; in item 5, box is singular, so sits matches.