

Phrase Trap

Find the subject that controls the verb.

5.11.D.vi "prepositions and prepositional phrases and their influence on subject-verb agreement;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT AGREEMENT

The true subject and verb are both singular or both plural. A noun in a prepositional phrase does not control the verb.

The captain beside the flag salutes.

INCORRECT AGREEMENT

The true subject and verb do not match in number. The verb may have been incorrectly matched to a noun in a prepositional phrase.

The stars above the mountain glows.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle MATCH or MISMATCH for each sentence; for Part 2, choose two items and name each true subject and verb to explain your choice.

1. The basket of apples sits near the door.

MATCH

MISMATCH

2. The jars on the shelf need labels.

MATCH

MISMATCH

3. The pictures on the wall hangs crookedly.

MATCH

MISMATCH

4. The jar of buttons belongs to Ms. Lee.

MATCH

MISMATCH

5. The pile of leaves are wet.

MATCH

MISMATCH

6. The stories in the book is funny.

MATCH

MISMATCH

7. The bundle of sticks fall from the cart.

MATCH

MISMATCH

8. The row of candles shines brightly.

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. Put a prepositional phrase in each sentence.

MATCH _____

MISMATCH _____

CHALLENGE

Write a correct sentence with a plural subject and a singular noun in a prepositional phrase. Underline the true subject.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The basket of apples sits near the door.	MATCH	The singular subject basket matches the singular verb sits.
2	The jars on the shelf need labels.	MATCH	The plural subject jars matches the plural verb need.
3	The pictures on the wall hangs crookedly.	MISMATCH	The plural subject pictures needs the verb hang.
4	The jar of buttons belongs to Ms. Lee.	MATCH	The singular subject jar matches the singular verb belongs.
5	The pile of leaves are wet.	MISMATCH	The singular subject pile needs the verb is.
6	The stories in the book is funny.	MISMATCH	The plural subject stories needs the verb are.
7	The bundle of sticks fall from the cart.	MISMATCH	The singular subject bundle needs the verb falls.
8	The row of candles shines brightly.	MATCH	The singular subject row matches the singular verb shines.

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 lanterns beside the path glow at night.
- **MISMATCH:** The bowl of peaches are on the counter.

Challenge: The dogs near the barn bark loudly.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Expected sorting: 1 MATCH, 2 MATCH, 3 MISMATCH, 4 MATCH, 5 MISMATCH, 6 MISMATCH, 7 MISMATCH, 8 MATCH. In Part 2, accept explanations that identify the true subject and verb and note that the prepositional phrase does not change the verb.