

Phrase Proof

Find the real subject before you choose the verb.

6.10.D.iv "prepositions and prepositional phrases and their influence on subject-verb agreement;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT AGREEMENT

The verb matches the main subject, not a noun inside a prepositional phrase.

The jar of paintbrushes sits on the shelf.

NEEDS A FIX

The verb does not match the main subject. Check whether it is matching a noun inside a prepositional phrase by mistake.

The helmets in the closet was dusty.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or FIX for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which noun is the subject and why its verb does or does not match.

1. The tray of muffins smells delicious.

CORRECT

FIX

2. The map of hiking trails hangs by the door.

CORRECT

FIX

3. The pages in the notebook is torn.

CORRECT

FIX

4. The dogs at the park chase a ball.

CORRECT

FIX

5. The buttons on the coat needs sewing.

CORRECT

FIX

6. The box of crayons are under the table.

CORRECT

FIX

7. The lights in the hallway shine brightly.

CORRECT

FIX

8. The collection of stamps belong to Mia.

CORRECT

FIX

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 sentence for CORRECT and one new sentence for FIX. Include a prepositional phrase in each sentence.

CORRECT _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so its verb agrees with its subject, then name the subject: The bundle of old newspapers were wet.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The tray of muffins smells delicious.	CORRECT	The main subject is tray, which is singular, so smells is correct.
2	The map of hiking trails hangs by the door.	CORRECT	The main subject is map, which is singular, so hangs is correct.
3	The pages in the notebook is torn.	FIX	The main subject is pages, which is plural, so the verb should be are.
4	The dogs at the park chase a ball.	CORRECT	The main subject is dogs, which is plural, so chase is correct.
5	The buttons on the coat needs sewing.	FIX	The main subject is buttons, which is plural, so the verb should be need.
6	The box of crayons are under the table.	FIX	The main subject is box, which is singular, so the verb should be is.
7	The lights in the hallway shine brightly.	CORRECT	The main subject is lights, which is plural, so shine is correct.
8	The collection of stamps belong to Mia.	FIX	The main subject is collection, which is singular, so the verb should be belongs.

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)

- **CORRECT:** The row of lockers looks clean.
- **FIX:** The birds in the nest sings loudly.

Challenge: The bundle of old newspapers was wet. Subject: bundle.

Correct items are 1, 2, 4, and 7. Fix items are 3, 5, 6, and 8; in Part 2, students should identify the main subject rather than a noun in the prepositional phrase.