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.

ANSWER KEY # Phrase Proof

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.10.D.iv

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.