

Verb Detective Sort

Find the noun that controls the verb.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

VERB AGREES

The main subject matches the verb. A noun inside a prepositional phrase does not control the verb.

The orchestra near the fountain performs nightly.

VERB DISAGREES

The verb does not match the main subject. Do not let a noun in a prepositional phrase trick you.

The basket beside the windows are dusty.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle AGREES or DISAGREES, then choose two item numbers and explain which main subject controls each verb.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The stack of towels is in the closet. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 2. The lid of the boxes are loose. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 3. The players on the field runs quickly. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 4. The smell of fresh bread fills the kitchen. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 5. The paths through the forest lead to a lake. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 6. A box of old photos were missing. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 7. The keys beneath the sofa belong to Omar. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |
| 8. The paintings in the halls hang crookedly. | ☐ AGREES | ☐ DISAGREES |

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 that AGREES and one new sentence that DISAGREES. Include a prepositional phrase in each sentence.

AGREES _____

DISAGREES _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a singular subject and a plural noun in a prepositional phrase. Use a singular verb, then label the subject and the prepositional phrase.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The stack of towels is in the closet.	AGREES	The main subject is stack, which is singular, so is agrees.
2	The lid of the boxes are loose.	DISAGREES	The main subject is lid, which is singular, so it needs is, not are.
3	The players on the field runs quickly.	DISAGREES	The main subject is players, which is plural, so it needs run, not runs.
4	The smell of fresh bread fills the kitchen.	AGREES	The main subject is smell, which is singular, so fills agrees.
5	The paths through the forest lead to a lake.	AGREES	The main subject is paths, which is plural, so lead agrees.
6	A box of old photos were missing.	DISAGREES	The main subject is box, which is singular, so it needs was, not were.
7	The keys beneath the sofa belong to Omar.	AGREES	The main subject is keys, which is plural, so belong agrees.
8	The paintings in the halls hang crookedly.	AGREES	The main subject is paintings, which is plural, so hang agrees.

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)

- **AGREES:** The sound of raindrops calms the baby.
- **DISAGREES:** The color of the walls are bright.

Challenge: The label on the bottles is faded. Subject: label. Prepositional phrase: on the bottles.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the main subject and explain that the noun in the prepositional phrase does not determine the verb. Accept original Part 3 sentences when the main subject and verb agree or disagree as labeled.