

Look Past Phrases

Do not let a prepositional phrase fool you.

8.10.D.iii "prepositions and prepositional phrases and their influence on subject-verb agreement;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

SUBJECT AND VERB MATCH

The verb agrees with the subject. A noun inside a prepositional phrase is not the subject.

A necklace of silver beads gleams beneath the lamp.

SUBJECT AND VERB DO NOT MATCH

The verb does not agree with the subject. Check the noun before the prepositional phrase, not the noun inside it.

The bundle of wet towels are heavy.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle MATCHES or MISMATCHES, then choose two items and explain which noun is the subject and how the verb agrees or fails to agree with it.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The keys to the storage room are missing. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 2. A box of donated books was placed by the door. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 3. The pages in the notebook is torn. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 4. The scent of pine needles fills the cabin. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 5. The speakers at the assembly was loud. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 6. The collection of stamps were valuable. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 7. The recipe for lemon muffins includes eggs. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |
| 8. The members of the debate team are prepared. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ MISMATCHES |

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 MATCHES and one new sentence for MISMATCHES. Include a prepositional phrase in each sentence.

MATCHES _____

MISMATCHES _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with two prepositional phrases and correct subject-verb agreement, then label the subject and verb.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The keys to the storage room are missing.	MATCHES	The subject is keys, and the plural verb are agrees with it.
2	A box of donated books was placed by the door.	MATCHES	The subject is box, and the singular verb was agrees with it.
3	The pages in the notebook is torn.	MISMATCHES	The subject is pages, which needs the plural verb are.
4	The scent of pine needles fills the cabin.	MATCHES	The subject is scent, and the singular verb fills agrees with it.
5	The speakers at the assembly was loud.	MISMATCHES	The subject is speakers, which needs the plural verb were.
6	The collection of stamps were valuable.	MISMATCHES	The subject is collection, which needs the singular verb was.
7	The recipe for lemon muffins includes eggs.	MATCHES	The subject is recipe, and the singular verb includes agrees with it.
8	The members of the debate team are prepared.	MATCHES	The subject is members, and the plural verb are agrees with it.

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)

- **MATCHES:** The lanterns beside the trail glow at dusk.
- **MISMATCHES:** The bowl of cherries are on the table.

Challenge: The sculpture near the fountain in the plaza attracts visitors. Subject: sculpture. Verb: attracts. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the head noun as the subject and ignore the noun inside the prepositional phrase. Student-created sentences may vary if they include a prepositional phrase and are sorted correctly.