

Verb Match Detectives

Check whether each subject and verb match.

5.LU.1.D "Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and number in writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

VERB MATCHES

The subject and verb match in number. A singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.

One squirrel climbs quietly.

VERB SHIFTS

The subject and verb do not match in number. Change the verb so it matches the subject.

Several painters paints murals.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle MATCHES or SHIFTS for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how the subject and verb helped you decide.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The puppies chase the ball. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 2. The train arrives early. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 3. My uncle cook dinner. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 4. The flowers bloom in spring. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 5. The rabbit hide under the porch. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 6. Our neighbors walk their dog. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 7. Those clouds cover the sun. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |
| 8. The drummer play loudly. | ☐ MATCHES | ☐ SHIFTS |

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 labeled MATCHES and one new sentence labeled SHIFTS.

MATCHES _____

SHIFTS _____

CHALLENGE

Write two connected sentences about a band. Use a correct singular subject and verb in the first sentence. In the second sentence, use a plural subject with an incorrect singular verb, then rewrite the second sentence correctly.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppies chase the ball.	MATCHES	Puppies is plural, and chase is a plural verb.
2	The train arrives early.	MATCHES	Train is singular, and arrives is a singular verb.
3	My uncle cook dinner.	SHIFTS	Uncle is singular, so the verb should be cooks.
4	The flowers bloom in spring.	MATCHES	Flowers is plural, and bloom is a plural verb.
5	The rabbit hide under the porch.	SHIFTS	Rabbit is singular, so the verb should be hides.
6	Our neighbors walk their dog.	MATCHES	Neighbors is plural, and walk is a plural verb.
7	Those clouds cover the sun.	MATCHES	Clouds is plural, and cover is a plural verb.
8	The drummer play loudly.	SHIFTS	Drummer is singular, so the verb should be plays.

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:** My cousins build a sandcastle.
- **SHIFTS:** Each player wear a helmet.

Challenge: The band performs on Friday. The musicians sings together. Rewrite: The musicians sing together.

For Part 2, students should name the subject and tell whether it is singular or plural, then connect that number to the verb. Accept different student-created sentences when the subject and verb relationship is correct for MATCHES or incorrect for SHIFTS.