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.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Match Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.LU.1.D

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.