

## Exercise 1 Subject-Verb Agreement

In each of the following sentences, choose the correct verb form in parentheses. It may be helpful to first identify the subject.

There is an answer key on the next page.

1. Each member of the orchestra (plays play) two instruments.
2. Neither board games nor sports (is are) of any interest to my electronics-obsessed children.
3. One of the sides (seems seem) to enjoy mass support while the other (fights fight) a holding action of counter-information.
4. The increasing use of technology in the workplace and the resulting impact on society (has have) been well-documented.
5. Workers, forced to use computers and subjected to working in impersonal situations, (requires require) enhanced skills.
6. Since the jobs once assigned to a female secretary (is are) now made redundant by computers, the position is disappearing from the work place.
7. One of the messages (is are) to leave respect and dignity at home before coming to work.
8. The disparity between costs and benefits (underlies underlie) the difficulty in arriving at an agreement.
9. Uncertainty regarding the costs of abatement (is are) dwarfed by the controversy over quantifying the environmental cost of inaction.
10. Both sides (seeks seek) to avoid the costs; neither side (quantifies quantify) the benefits.

Answer Key. The subject of the sentence is in italics. The correct answer is blue.

1. *Each* member of the orchestra (**plays** play) two instruments.
2. *Neither* board games nor sports (**is** are) of any interest to my electronics-obsessed children.
3. *One* of the sides (**seems** seem) to enjoy mass support while the *other* (**fights** fight) a holding action of counter-information.
4. The increasing *use* of technology in the workplace and the resulting *impact* on society (has **have**) been well-documented.
5. *Workers*, forced to use computers and subjected to working in impersonal situations, (requires **require**) enhanced skills.
6. Since the *jobs* once assigned to a female secretary (is **are**) now made redundant by computers, the position is disappearing from the work place.
7. *One* of the messages (**is** are) to leave respect and dignity at home before coming to work.
8. The *disparity* between costs and benefits (**underlies** underlie) the difficulty in arriving at an agreement.
9. *Uncertainty* regarding the costs of abatement (**is** are) dwarfed by the controversy over quantifying the environmental cost of inaction.
10. *Both* sides (seeks **seek**) to avoid the costs; *neither* side (**quantifies** quantify) the benefits.