VERB

PACKET

Name: ____________________________
1. Action Verbs

- An action verb tells what the subject of the sentence does.

Baron von Drais built one of the first bicycles in 1817. We enjoy his invention today.

The subject of each sentence is underlined. Write the action verb that tells what the subject does.

Example: Baron von Drais improved an early French design.

1. Early bicycles moved slowly.
2. Riders pushed the ground with their feet.
3. Kirkpatrick Macmillan attached cranks to the rear wheel.
4. He connected the cranks to foot pedals.
5. Macmillan rode seventy miles on his new invention.
6. The high-wheeler started interest in bicycles.
7. Many people fell from high-wheelers.
8. John Starley invented the safety bicycle in 1885.
9. A chain carried the movement to the rear wheel.
10. Everyone bought bicycles in the 1890s.
11. They cycled through parks and on country lanes.
12. Today many people own bicycles.
13. The bicycle serves different purposes in people’s lives.
14. Most people use their bicycles for pleasure.
15. Some workers travel to their jobs on bicycles.
16. Other riders race professionally.
17. These different purposes require different designs.
18. Bicycle design improves every year.
1 Action Verbs

Elita reported on ancient legends.
The legend of King Arthur grew from fact.

Write the action verb or verbs in each sentence.

1. King Arthur probably lived in Britain around A.D. 500.

2. At that time, the Saxons sailed to Britain.

3. The Saxons attacked the British towns.

4. King Arthur earned his reputation in battle against them.

5. He established the famous castle of Camelot.

6. His knights met around the Round Table of Camelot.

7. They rode from Camelot on their various adventures.

8. The legend of King Arthur continues today.

9. In the legends, a magician named Merlin helped King Arthur.

10. Merlin predicted future events.

11. Supposedly, King Arthur pulled a magic sword out of a stone.

12. This sword gave him a lot of power.


14. Movies show the Round Table and life in Camelot.

15. Why do so many people read stories and watch movies about King Arthur?
2 Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

- The main verb expresses action or being.
- A helping verb works with the main verb.
- A verb phrase is made up of one or more helping verbs and a main verb.

All spiders can spin silky threads.

Have you seen spiders at work?

I could have watched them for hours.

Write the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example: We are learning about spiders.

1. Webs are seen best in the early morning.
2. Thousands of threads might be covered with dew.
3. Shall we look for webs at dawn tomorrow?
4. Spiders can move rapidly after their prey.
5. They may catch insects with their webs.
6. Do they eat anything besides insects?
7. Not many spiders will bother people.
8. You should handle some spiders carefully.
9. Black widow spiders have caused problems.
10. A tarantula could grow ten inches long.
11. Spiders were kept as pets by my class last year.
12. My friend has been studying spiders for years.
13. Does every spider have eight legs?
2 Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

helping verbs main verb

We have been reading about Baltimore, Maryland.
helping verb main verb
Can you remember its history?

Write the verb phrase in each sentence. Underline each helping verb once and each main verb twice.

1. The city has been known for its ship industry since the Revolution.

2. Would America have won the War of 1812 without Baltimore clipper ships?

3. The national anthem was written after a battle in Baltimore.

4. Maryland might have joined the Confederacy during the Civil War.

5. However, the state did remain with the union.

6. The streets of Baltimore were swept by a great fire in 1904.

7. Many areas have been rebuilt.
8. Today Baltimore is filled with row houses with white marble steps.

9. Baltimore’s harbor must be its largest tourist attraction.

10. Many tourists will visit the historic harbor this year.
5 Being Verbs and Linking Verbs

- A being verb shows a state of being.
- A being verb is called a linking verb when it links the subject with a word in the predicate.
- A predicate noun renames or identifies the subject.
- A predicate adjective describes the subject.

Linking verbs:
- A popular newspaper section is the comics. (predicate noun)
- Comic strips have become popular. (predicate adjective)

Write the linking verb in each sentence.

Example: Comic strips are a big part of many newspapers.

1. My aunt is the author of a comic strip.
2. Her office is a busy and colorful place.
3. Her special ink smells funny.
4. The characters in her strip are little animals.
5. Some of them look humorous.
6. My aunt’s comic strip has been very successful.
7. Comic strips can be serious too.
8. I am fond of both kinds of comics.
9. The history of comics seems exciting.
10. Comics once became weapons in a newspaper battle.
11. Joseph Pulitzer was the first to publish color funnies.
12. The sales of his newspaper were high.
14. Sunday funnies soon became part of his papers too.
15. Now comics have become serious business for publishers.
5 Being Verbs and Linking Verbs

Linking Verbs: The Mounties is a law enforcement agency.

Predicate Noun
Mounties have become famous.

Predicate Adjective

Underline each linking verb. Write the predicate noun or predicate adjective.

1. In northern Canada, the countryside seems peaceful.
2. The mountain air smells fresh.
3. The northern breezes feel crisp.
4. The water tastes clean.
5. Wildflowers look lovely on the hillsides.
6. Mounties on horseback are a common sight.
7. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s nickname is the Mounties.
8. These Mounties look impressive in their brown jackets.
9. Their uniforms are a symbol of their authority.
10. This police force became important in the 1800s.
11. The officers are government officials.
12. Their presence was necessary in the far north country in the early days.
13. Now they are famous throughout the world.
14. They are the subject of many stories.
15. The Mounties are the model for police forces in many countries.
16. Their standards seem high.
17. Only talented people can be officers.
18. Mounties have become an important part of Canadian life.

(continued)
6 Simple Verb Tenses

- The **tense** of a verb tells when the action or the state of being takes place.
- The **present tense** tells that something is happening now.
- The **past tense** tells that something has already happened.
- The **future tense** tells that something is going to happen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Today lighthouses <strong>use</strong> electricity.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past tense</td>
<td>Long ago they <strong>used</strong> oil lamps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future tense</td>
<td>In the future, lighthouses will <strong>use</strong> computers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write *present*, *past*, or *future* for each underlined verb.

**Example:** The Romans **constructed** the first lighthouse.

1. Lighthouses long ago were low towers on the shore.
2. In those days, ships **depended** on lighthouses for safety.
3. Even today lighthouse beams **guide** sailors.
4. In the past, a lighthouse lens **was** glass.
5. Modern lenses are **plastic**.
6. Formerly the life of a lighthouse keeper **was** lonely.
7. Now several people **maintain** each lighthouse.
8. In the future, computers **will replace** lighthouse keepers.
9. Perhaps future generations will **save** old lighthouses.
10. Some old lighthouses **will require** special care.
11. One such lighthouse still **stands** in Boston Harbor.
12. For 250 years, its beacon **directed** ships in the harbor.
13. Its light still **shines** today.
14. It **will guide** ships for many years in the future.
15. I shall visit that lighthouse next year.
16. At that time, we **shall learn** more about its history.
6 Simple Verb Tenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Jan looks for a good autobiography.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past tense</td>
<td>She looked in the library yesterday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future tense</td>
<td>She will look in the bookstore tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rewrite each sentence, using the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Long ago Plutarch ___ stories of Greeks and Romans. (relate)

2. Today we ___ a person’s life story a biography. (call)

3. Writers today still ___ from Plutarch. (learn)

4. His work ___ a model for future biographers as well. (be)

5. Modern biography ___ three hundred years ago. (originate)

6. In 1800 Mason Weems ___ a biography of George Washington. (publish)

7. In the 1806 edition, he ___ the story of the cherry tree. (include)

8. People ___ about that story for years to come. (talk)

9. Today readers ___ the truth of some of Weems’s stories. (question)

10. Someday I ___ his account of Washington’s life. (read)
8 Regular and Irregular Verbs

- Most verbs form the past tense and past participle by adding -ed.
- Irregular verbs do not follow any rules for forming the past tense and past participles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>study</td>
<td>studied</td>
<td>(is) studying</td>
<td>(has) studied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>help</td>
<td>helped</td>
<td>(is) helping</td>
<td>(has) helped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>(is) doing</td>
<td>(has) done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>ate</td>
<td>(is) eating</td>
<td>(has) eaten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose the correct form of the verb for each sentence. Then identify whether it is regular or irregular.

1. Kela, the pilot, (saw, seen) acres of blue ice.

2. The view (proved, proven) to be a very exciting one.

3. Many of the rivers had (froze, frozen).

4. Kela quickly (scribbled, scribbling) what she saw into her flight log.

5. The wind (blew, blown) fiercely.

6. Kela (work, worked) hard to stay warm in the frigid temperatures.

7. Kela (did, done) a good job of touring the northernmost state.

8. These photos (show, showed) Kela on her arrival there.
8 Regular and Irregular Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>(is) being</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>(has) been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steal</td>
<td>(is) stealing</td>
<td>stole</td>
<td>(has) stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throw</td>
<td>(is) throwing</td>
<td>threw</td>
<td>(has) thrown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Write the present participle, the past, or the past participle form of the verb in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. Throughout history people have __________ exciting things. (do)
2. Today historians are __________ about these adventurers. (write)
3. Columbus __________ a voyage across an uncharted ocean. (make)
4. Cartier __________ a trip up the St. Lawrence River. (take)
5. Robert Peary __________ dog sleds to the North Pole. (drive)
6. Amelia Earhart has __________ alone across the Atlantic. (fly)

B 7–12. This section of a report has six errors with irregular verbs. Use proofreading marks to correct the report.

Example: Neil Armstrong has __________ the moon’s surface.

In 1999, the U.S. had threw a 30th anniversary party for a historic space mission. On that mission, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had being the first people to step onto the moon. Some scientists are still writen of the moon as the pathway to the stars. The moon might been a base for fueling satellites in orbit. Today astronauts are seen a whole new future for space exploration. NASA is made plans to launch Europa Orbiter to explore Jupiter’s moon in 2003.

(continued)
9 Subject-Verb Agreement

- A subject and its verb must **agree** in number.
- Use a singular verb with a singular subject.
- Use a plural verb with a plural subject.
- Use a plural verb if the parts of a compound subject are joined by **and**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Subjects</th>
<th>Plural Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A turtle has no teeth.</td>
<td>They have sharp beaks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a fascinating animal.</td>
<td>These reptiles are quite common.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A reptile's size varies.</td>
<td>Their size and weight vary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write the correct form of the verb in parentheses to complete each sentence.

**Example:** Reptiles _______ breathe _______ through lungs, not gills. (**breathe, breathes**)

1. A reptile _______ scales or bony plates on its body. (**has, have**)
2. These animals _______ all cold-blooded. (**is, are**)
3. They _______ on the environment for warmth. (**depend, depends**)
4. Alligators and turtles _______ reptiles. (**is, are**)
5. Only two kinds of alligators _______ in the world. (**exist, exists**)
6. One kind _______ in the southeastern United States. (**live, lives**)
7. It _______ dull gray or dark olive in color. (**is, are**)
8. Its jaw _______ many sharp teeth. (**has, have**)
9. The male _______ to a length of twelve feet. (**grow, grows**)
10. Females _______ somewhat smaller. (**is, are**)
11. A turtle _______ the only reptile with a shell. (**is, are**)
12. It _______ the animal from enemies. (**protect, protects**)
13. About 240 kinds of turtles _______ in North America. (**live, lives**)
14. The largest type _______ from four to eight feet long. (**grow, grows**)
15. Musk turtles _______ only four inches long. (**measure, measures**)

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9 Subject-Verb Agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Subjects</th>
<th>Plural Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise looks at a photo.</td>
<td>We look at her album.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One photo was missing.</td>
<td>The other photos were in order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is part of this collection.</td>
<td>Denise and I are careful with them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Complete each sentence with the correct present tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Denise ____________ a book of old photographs. (own)

2. It ____________ one of the earliest photographs. (include)

3. The photo ____________ a picture by a French inventor. (be)

4. The picture ____________ the view from his window. (show)

5. These pages ____________ daguerreotypes. (contain)

6. They ____________ the earliest clear and distinct photographs. (be)

B. 7–12. These captions about animal pictures have six errors in subject-verb agreement. Use proofreading marks to correct the captions.

Example: The details in these pictures amazes me.

Proofreading Marks:
- Indent
- Add
- Delete
- Capital letter
- Small letter
- Add quotes
- Add comma
- Add period
- Transpose

Some mammals live in cold places.

This fish guard eggs in a nest.

Mother alligators puts their eggs in nests made from grass and mud.

A porcupine’s quills help it to stay alive.

Snakes sometimes swallow things that is bigger than their heads.

A very young lion cub drink milk.

(continued)
10 More Subject-Verb Agreement

- If a compound subject is joined by or, either . . . or, or neither . . . nor, make the verb agree with the closer subject.
  Stacy or Carmen knows this painter well.
  Either Degas or Renoir is Stacy’s favorite painter.
  Neither Stacy nor her classmates paint well.

- The subject of a sentence beginning with here or there usually comes after the verb. First, identify the subject. Then make the verb agree with it.
  Here is the new exhibit. There are so many paintings!

Rewrite each sentence, using the correct form of the verb in parentheses. The subjects are underlined to help you.

Example: Here (is, are) a painting of a French landscape.
  Here is a painting of a French landscape.

1. There (is, are) many impressionistic paintings in the museum.

2. Claude Monet or Mary Cassatt (appeal, appeals) most to Inez.

3. Here (is, are) a still life of a bowl of fruit.

4. Neither the grapes nor the orange (looks, look) real.

5. On the top floor, there (is, are) a mobile by Alexander Calder.

6. Light winds or a breeze (make, makes) it turn.
10 More Subject-Verb Agreement

Mike or Ann asks about the Constitution.
Either Nina or the other girls answers the question.
Neither her friends nor Abby ever forgets the facts.
Here are some facts about that document.
There is a copy of the Constitution.

A Choose the correct verb in parentheses to complete each sentence. Write the sentence correctly.

1. Either Luis or Kim (suggest, suggests) a play about the Constitution.

2. John or Mandy (play, plays) the part of George Washington.

3. There (is, are) students to play the other parts.

4. Neither Laura nor the others (know, knows) their lines yet.

B 5–8. This note has four errors in subject-verb agreement. Use proofreading marks to correct the note.

Example: There (are) wigs on the table for all of the actors.

Proofreading

To: Andrea

Either you or Mrs. Palmer are responsible for the costumes. You or she have to make sure they look realistic. Enclosed is instructions for the boys’ costumes. We have cloaks and hoods for the girls. Neither the cloaks nor the hoods needs cleaning.

(continued)
11 Contractions

- A contraction is the shortened form of two words. An apostrophe replaces the dropped letters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two Words</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is a beautiful setting.</td>
<td>It's a beautiful setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are going there soon.</td>
<td>We're going there soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would not want to miss that.</td>
<td>I wouldn't want to miss that.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rewrite each sentence, using the words that make up the underlined contraction. Then underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence that you wrote.

**Example:** Hilary hasn’t visited Mount Vernon before.

Hilary has not visited Mount Vernon before.

1. She’s visiting Mount Vernon next spring.

2. She’ll see George Washington’s home.

3. Since 1858 Mount Vernon hasn’t belonged to the Washington family.

4. It’s a beautiful example of the Georgian style of architecture.

5. Hilary hasn’t seen the many portraits in the house.

6. We’ve enjoyed the gardens and the view of the river.

7. Hilary mustn’t forget Woodlawn, home of Washington’s daughter.

8. Last year we didn’t have time for Woodlawn.
## 11 Contractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two Words</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I do not know what shells these are.</td>
<td>I don’t know what shells these are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedro said he would help me find out.</td>
<td>Pedro said he’d help me find out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are going to the library.</td>
<td>We’re going to the library.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A**

Complete each sentence with a contraction for the words in parentheses.

1. _______________ starting a shell collection. (We are)
2. You _______________ collect many shells at high tide. (will not)
3. Even at low tide, I _______________ seen any unusual shells. (have not)
4. Rachel _______________ find a sand dollar. (could not)
5. _______________ still continue her search. (She will)
6. _______________ waiting for Michelle’s return. (I am)
7. _______________ always a successful collector. (She is)
8. _______________ actually found a Neptune shell near the jetty. (She has)
9. It _______________ have a scratch on it. (did not)
10. _______________ added it to our collection. (We have)

**B**

11–15. This post card has five errors with contractions. Use proofreading marks to correct the post card.

**Example:** We’ve been using herbs to add flavor to food.

Proofreading Marks:
- **Indent**
- **Add**
- **Delete**
- **Capital letter**
- **Small letter**
- **Add quotes**
- **Add comma**
- **Add period**
- **Transpose**

Im having a great vacation. My aunt’s teaching me about wildflowers and herbs. She’s been using herbs for healing for a long time! Tomorrow were going to pick marigold leaves to make a sunburn cream. Your going to be surprised when you see how easy it is. It’s a lot of fun!