

Subject-Verb Agreement

Exercise 3: 14/25

This exercise was difficult for me because I had trouble identifying the subject-verb agreement.

Incorrect Sentence

Where is the bowl of squid eyeball stew and the platter of broccoli-chocolate muffins that Madison made for Elizabeth's housewarming party?

To me, the sentence sounds correct and I said there was no problem with the subject-verb agreement.

Corrected Sentence

The nouns **bowl** and **platter** are the subjects. The verb should be **are** because there are two subjects. To find the subject we must look after the verb.

Where are the bowl of squid eyeball stew and the platter of broccoli-chocolate muffins that Madison made for Elizabeth's housewarming party?

Exercise 4: 14/25

This exercise was difficult for me because I had trouble identifying the subject-verb agreement.

Incorrect Sentence

The Smiths, along with Tonya, have to avoid indigestion after eating these weird muffins.

Corrected Sentence

The noun Tonya requires a singular verb. When you have **not only** and **but also**, the subject that is **closer** to the verb counts. **Tonya** is closer to the two subjects.

Not only the Smiths but also Tonya has agreed to try one of the world-famous chocolate-broccoli muffins.

In Lunsford *Easy Writer*, 6th ed, I learned how to check for subject-verb agreement when editing a sentence. I must first identify the subject that goes with each verb, check compound subjects like **and**, check noun subjects to see whether they are singular or plural, and check some indefinite pronouns like **any**, **each**, or **other**.

I also learned in Lunsford *Easy Writer*, 6th ed, that in research papers choosing primary and secondary sources is important. Primary sources give firsthand knowledge while secondary sources give us information from others. I did not think this was important and didn't even consider it. This was an issue I had in a previous assignment when referencing what an article states. Instead of referencing the outside source, I referenced a statement from the article saying

it was the author who said when it was the researcher's statement. I hope I can do better with this on my paper this week.