

OTHER AGREEMENT PROBLEMS (II)

Titles and Groups of Words. Any group of words referring to a single thing or thought is used with a singular verb. The title of a book, play, film, musical composition, or other work of art refers to one thing and is used with a singular verb.

Saints and Strangers was written by George Willison.
The Netherlands is small but prosperous.

Words of Amount and Time. Words or phrases that express periods of time, fractions, weights, measures, and amount of money are usually singular.

Fifty dollars *is* too much to charge.
Half of the book *is* well written.

If a prepositional phrase separates the subject from the verb, the verb is singular if its subject is considered a single thing or thought. The verb is plural if its subject is considered plural.

Five pounds of flour *was* what I ordered.
Five bags of mail *were* delivered.

Choosing the Standard Verb Form. Underline the standard form of the verb in the following sentences.

1. Half of the state (is, are) mountainous.
2. What we want (is, are) support from the community.
3. *The Rest of the Robots* (was, were) written by Isaac Asimov.
4. Two days (is, are) not long enough for our trip.
5. Three-fourths of his time (is, are) devoted to writing.
6. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (is, are) another name for Russia.
7. Eighty-nine cents (is, are) too much to pay for a cantaloupe.
8. "The gods help them that help themselves" (was, were) said by Aesop.
9. Five pounds of potatoes (is, are) too much for the potato salad.
10. Two weeks (is, are) too little to spend on the vacation we plan.
11. Two cups of sugar (was, were) called for in the recipe.
12. "Mehitabel and Her Kittens," by Don Marquis, (is, are) one of my favorite poems.
13. Half of our vacation (is, are) over.
14. Three pounds of coffee (is, are) what Mrs. Means bought today.
15. "Base Details" (is, are) a poem by Siegfried Sassoon.
16. Fifty cents (is, are) far too much to pay for a cup of coffee!
17. *Fathers and Sons* (is, are) the book I'm reviewing for our club.
18. Three yards of material (was, were) ordered by Mrs. Jordan.
19. "Strangers in the Night" (is, are) a song I like.
20. "It takes a great person to make a good listener" (is, are) what Arthur Helps said.

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