

EXERCISE 21-1 Subject-verb agreement

Underline the subject (or compound subject) and then select the verb that agrees with it. (If you have difficulty identifying the subject, consult 62a.) Example:

Someone in the audience (has) / have) volunteered to participate in the experiment.

- a. Your friendship over the years and your support on a wide variety of issues (has / have) meant a great deal to us.
 - b. Shelters for teenage runaways (offers / offer) a wide variety of services.
 - c. The main source of income for Trinidad (is / are) oil and pitch.
 - d. The chances of your being promoted (is / are) excellent.
 - e. There (was / were) a *Peanuts* cartoon and a few Mother Goose rhymes pinned to the bulletin board.
1. Neither the professor nor his assistants (was / were) able to solve the mystery of the eerie glow in the laboratory.
 2. Four years of research (has / have) gone into making our software suitable for the Japanese market.
 3. Discovered in the soil of our city garden (was / were) a button dating from the Civil War and three marbles dating from the turn of the century.
 4. Every year, during the midsummer festival, the smoke of village bonfires (fills / fill) the sky.
 5. When food supplies (was / were) scarce, the slaves had to make do with the less desirable parts of the animals.