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A

Understanding Subject-Verb Agreement

23A

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Subject-Verb Agreement

A sentence's subject (a noun or a pronoun) and its verb must **agree**: singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take plural verbs.

The <sup>s</sup>museum <sup>v</sup>opens at ten o'clock. (singular noun subject *museum* takes singular verb *opens*)

The <sup>s</sup>museums <sup>v</sup>open at ten o'clock. (plural noun subject *museums* takes plural verb *open*)

<sup>s</sup>She always <sup>v</sup>watches the eleven o'clock news. (singular pronoun subject *she* takes singular verb *watches*)

<sup>s</sup>They always <sup>v</sup>watch the eleven o'clock news. (plural pronoun subject *they* takes plural verb *watch*)

Subject-Verb Agreement with Regular Verbs		
	Singular	Plural
First person	I play	Molly and I/we play
Second person	you play	you play
Third person	he/she/it plays	they play
	the man plays	the men play
	Molly plays	Molly and Sam play

◆ PRACTICE 23-1

Underline the correct form of the verb in each of the following sentences. Make sure the verb agrees with its subject.

**Example:** Radio stations (broadcast/broadcasts) many kinds of music.

- (1) Most music fans (know/knows) about salsa, a popular style of Latin music. (2) However, they (need/needs) a little education when it comes to ranchera, a blend of several traditional forms of Mexican music. (3) These forms (include/includes) mariachi music as well as ballads and waltz-like tunes. (4) Ranchera (appeal/appeals) to a wide audience of Americans of Mexican descent. (5) Its performers (sell/sells) millions of records a year, and often they (top/tops) *Billboard's* Latin charts. (6) In fact, Mexican recordings (outsell/outsells) any other form of Latin music in the United States. (7) This popularity (surprise/surprises) many people. (8) Older ranchera lovers (tend/tends) to be first-generation, working-class immigrants, but more and more young listeners (seem/seems) drawn to ranchera. (9) Whenever one

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