Lesson 49
Agreement with Compound Subjects

Some sentences have more than one subject. A **compound subject** that is joined by *and* or *both . . . and* is usually plural. However, some compound subjects have two parts that make up one unit. These take a singular verb.

**Singular:** Bacon and eggs is my favorite breakfast.

**Plural:** The dog and cat are playing.

**Plural:** Both Anna and Mindy work at the hospital.

Compound subjects joined by *or, nor, either . . . or, or neither . . . nor* always have a verb that agrees with the closer subject.

**Singular:** Either Carlo or Max has the book.

**Singular:** Neither eggs nor bacon is on the menu.

**Plural:** Neither the garden nor the lilacs are in bloom.

When a compound subject is preceded by *many a, every, or each,* the subject takes a singular verb.

Many a hiker and climber has gotten lost in these mountains.

Every door and window has been locked.

Each nook and cranny is being searched.

**Exercise 1** Draw a line under the compound subject. Choose the verb or helping verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject and write it in the blank.

1. Each student and teacher __________ a name badge. (has, have)
2. Many a horse and rider __________ fallen on this jump. (has, have)
3. Hot dogs and beans __________ a popular meal in Boston. (is, are)
4. Both my mom and stepdad __________ coming to the concert. (is, are)
5. Neither Grace nor John __________ to go. (wants, want)
6. Either Meg or the twins __________ to meet you at the library. (plans, plan)
7. Neither the mirror nor the glasses __________ broken. (was, were)
8. Neither the horses nor the cow __________ been fed. (has, have)
9. The needle and thread __________ in the sewing box. (is, are)
10. Both my uncles and my aunt __________ called. (has, have)
11. Either a bird or a whistle __________ making that sound. (is, are)
12. Neither ice cream nor cookies __________ a low calorie snack. (is, are)
13. Many a tourist and traveler _______ visited our city. (has, have)
14. Every street, avenue, and boulevard _______ a new sign. (needs, need)
15. Each broken computer and printer _______ been fixed. (has, have)
16. My socks and sneakers _______ wet. (is, are)
17. Both fruit and vegetables _______ a healthy snack. (makes, make)
18. Fish and chips _______ popular in England. (is, are)
19. Either the robin or the blue jays _______ eating the seeds. (is, are)
20. Neither my brother nor my friends _______ been invited to the party. (has, have)
21. Either Jake or Alexis _______ a ride home. (needs, need)
22. Neither the donkey nor the horses _______. (bites, bite)
23. Both taxis and buses _______ on this corner. (stops, stop)
24. Neither Jack nor Beth _______ to talk on the phone. (likes, like)
25. Every car and truck _______ a toll on the highway. (pays, pay)
26. Each bush and flower _______ covered with dew. (is, are)
27. Neither frogs nor salamanders _______ in this pond. (lives, live)
28. Not every nurse and doctor _______ her or his job. (likes, like)
29. Soup and salad _______ a tasty lunch. (makes, make)
30. The matches and candle _______ on the desk. (is, are)
31. Both Andrea and Jaime _______ to day care. (goes, go)
32. Vitamins and minerals _______ strong bodies. (builds, build)
33. Neither Deb nor Sandy _______ late for work. (was, were)
34. Every newspaper and magazine _______ interesting stories. (contain, contains)
35. Every photograph and painting _______ damaged. (was, were)
36. In the movie, every criminal and bandit _______ the dust. (bites, bite)
37. Warm milk and toast _______ me to sleep. (puts, put)
38. Both Edwina and Fred _______ their mom’s car. (drives, drive)
39. Neither Ed nor the boys _______ much to say. (has, have)
40. Many a horse and cow _______ lived in this barn. (has, have)
Lesson 50
Intervening Expressions

Certain expressions seem to create a compound subject, but do not. Accompanied by, as well as, in addition to, plus, and together with are expressions that introduce phrases that tell about the subject. However, the subject remains singular and takes a singular verb.

Exercise 1  Draw a line under the subject. Then write the form of the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject. Use the present tense of the verb.

The brook, as well as the lake and the pond, ______ freeze in winter. (freeze)

1. Aspirin, besides a good night’s sleep, ______ help a headache. (help)
2. The dog, as well as the cat, ______ need a good bath. (need)
3. Andy, accompanied by Jessie and Jill, ______ leave tomorrow. (leave)
4. Nebraska, as well as Montana and Idaho, ______ get severe winters. (get)
5. Aileen, in addition to her brothers and sisters, ______ have dark hair. (have)
6. A headache, accompanied by sniffles and sneezing, ______ be a symptom of the flu. (be)
7. Toby, plus Andrea and Ali, ______ interview for the job today. (interview)
8. The violin, in addition to the guitar and the viola, ______ be a stringed instrument. (be)
9. Gold, as well as iron and steel, ______ weigh a lot. (weigh)
10. Fruit, accompanied by sugar and milk, ______ taste good. (taste)
11. Jenny, besides Pete and Terry, ______ know the secret. (know)
12. Dan, plus Margaret and Fred, ______ play the piano. (play)
13. The baby, besides her mom and dad, ______ look happy. (look)
14. Sara, in addition to Gena, ______ shop at Grump’s. (shop)
15. The bike, as well as the car, ______ have a flat tire. (have)
16. The detective, as well as the police officer, ______ arrive on the scene. (arrive)
17. My stepdad, together with my mom, ______ travel often. (travel)
18. The plant, along with the garden, ______ need to be watered. (need)
19. Fur, in addition to feathers, ______ insulate against cold. (insulate)
20. The knife, as well as the scissors, ______ be very sharp. (be)
21. Jean, accompanied by her friends, ______ go skiing every winter. (go)
22. The carpenter, as well as the bricklayer, _________ special tools. (use)

23. Milk, besides meat and beans, _________ a source of protein. (be)

24. The television show, as well as the movie, _________ at eight o’clock. (begin)

25. Jodie, besides Kim, _________ high school. (attend)

26. The house, besides the barn, _________ a paint job. (need)

27. The tall woman, as well as the man beside her, _________ in the choir. (sing)

28. The group, accompanied by the teacher, _________ today. (leave)

29. Mr. Phillips, aided by his son, _________ tomatoes. (raise)

30. Krista, as well as her sisters, _________ frequently. (telephone)

31. The cave, along with the tree, _________ shelter. (offer)

32. The tulip, besides the daffodil, _________ in spring. (bloom)

33. My mother, as well as my sister, _________ her job. (love)

34. The movie star, accompanied by her hairdresser, _________ on the set. (be)

35. The cake, as well as the pie, _________ chocolate. (contain)

36. The door, as well as the window, _________ . (squeak)

37. Math, besides English, _________ her favorite subject. (be)

38. Bette, together with Anthony, _________ in that pool. (swim)

39. The puppy, as well as the kitten, _________ soundly. (sleep)

40. The captain, accompanied by the sailors, _________ the ship. (abandon)

► Writing Link  Write a paragraph about your favorite restaurant. Write at least four sentences that contain intervening expressions.