Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheet

In the following examples, underline the simple subject and circle the correct verb.

1. The causes of this horrible disease (are / is) poor diet and lack of exercise.
2. The noise of the fan’s screams (is / are) a problem at some football stadiums.
3. The legacy of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson (influences / influence) the NBA today.
4. The theory of physics (state / states) that all things are made of energy.
5. The malware on all the office computers (is / are) a danger to our security.
6. There (is / are) five broken chairs in the office.
7. Neither my mom nor my sisters (know / knows) proper grammar
8. The members of the committee (is / are) very esteemed in their respective fields.
9. The committee (meet / meets) in the fancy office building.
10. Scissors (is / are) too dangerous to give to small children.
11. The pair of scissors (is / are) in the drawer.
12. Every single one of your sweaters (is / are) too small for me to wear.
13. Your sweaters (is / are) too small for me to wear.
14. The couch and the recliner I bought at Goodwill (looks / look) a lot more expensive than they actually are.
15. There (is / are) only one way I can answer your question: Yes, I will marry you.
### Subject, Simple subject

1. **The causes** of this horrible disease *(are / is)* poor diet and lack of exercise.

   “Of this horrible disease” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “The causes,” a plural noun. Now, would we say “The causes is” or “The causes are?”

2. **The noise** of the fan’s screams *(is / are)* a problem at some football stadiums.

   “Of the fan’s screams” is a prepositional phrase. When we eliminate it, we are left with “The noise,” a singular noun.

3. **The legacy** of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson *(influences / influence)* the NBA today.

   “Of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate and we are left with “The legacy,” a singular noun.

4. **The theory** of physics *(state / states)* that all things are made of energy.

   Once again, “of physics” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we have “The theory,” a singular noun.

5. **The malware** on all the office computers *(is / are)* a danger to our security.

   “On all the office computers” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “The malware,” a singular noun.

6. **There** *(is / are)* five broken **chairs** in the office.

   In this example, the subject of the sentence follows the verb. Keep in mind that “There” is never the subject of a sentence. Because “Chairs” is plural, the verb I plural as well.

7. **Neither my mom nor my sisters** *(know / knows)* proper grammar.

   Whenever we use a “neither/nor” or an “either/or” construction, we always conjugate the verb based on the second noun, the noun that follows “or/nor.” In this sentence, sisters is plural, so the noun should be plural.

8. **The members** of the committee *(is / are)* very esteemed in their respective fields.

   “Of the committee” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “members,” a plural noun.
9. **The committee** (meet / meets) in the fancy office building.

   “Committee” is a collective noun – a singular noun that consists of multiple people, places, or things. Other examples include “family,” “team,” “class,” “flock” – all nouns that consists of multiple things, but function singularly.

10. **Scissors** (is / are) too dangerous to give to small children.

    Scissors is a plural noun, so their corresponding verb should be plural as well.

11. **The pair of scissors** (is / are) in the drawer.

    “Of scissors” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “the pair,” a singular noun.

12. **Every single one of your sweaters** (is / are) too small for me to wear.

    “Of your sweaters” is a prepositional phrase. Eliminate it and we are left with “Every single” is a modifier of “one,” so “one” is the simple subject

13. **Your sweaters** (is / are) too small for me to wear.

    “Sweaters” is plural.

14. **The couch and the recliner** I bought at Goodwill (looks / look) a lot more expensive than they actually are.

    There are multiple subjects in this example – couch and recliner - that are connected by “and,” therefore the subject is plural.

15. **There** (is / are) only **one way** I can answer your question: Yes, I will marry you.

    “There” is never the subject of a sentence.