Name _____ Date _____

Subject-Verb Agreement in Complex Sentences

Directions: In each sentence, find the subject before you choose the verb. Words that come between a subject and its verb, or a subject that follows its verb, can make the wrong choice sound right.

1. Which choice for the underlined verb agrees with the subject of the sentence?

"The binder of handwritten field notes from last year's river surveys are kept in a locked cabinet in the science department office."

A. Keep it as written.
B. were
C. have been
D. is

2. What is the correct form of the underlined verb in this sentence?

"The volunteers who staff the information desk on Saturday mornings keep a careful record of every visitor and every question."

A. Keep it as written.
B. keeps
C. was keeping
D. has kept

3. This sentence places its subject after the verb. Which choice for the underlined verb agrees with that subject?

"Along the back fence of the community garden grows three tall rows of sunflowers planted by the elementary school's science classes."

A. has grown
B. was growing
C. grow
D. Keep it as written.

4. Is the underlined verb correct as written, or should it change?

"Among the items sealed in the town's centennial time capsule were two ticket stubs from the first summer festival."

A. was
B. Keep it as written.
C. has been
D. is

5. Which choice for the underlined verb follows the rule for two subjects joined by either and or?

"Either the assistant coaches or the team captain are responsible for posting the official lineup before each match."

A. is
B. Keep it as written.
C. were
D. have been

6. How should the underlined verb read so that it agrees with its subject?

"Neither the principal nor the department chairs is in favor of moving the final examinations to Friday afternoon."

A. was
B. Keep it as written.
C. has been
D. are

7. Which choice for the underlined verb is grammatically correct?

"The number of students who volunteer at the community food pantry each week are higher this autumn than it has ever been."

A. have been
B. is
C. Keep it as written.
D. were

8. Which form of the underlined verb belongs in this sentence?

"A number of parents has offered to drive the debate team to the regional tournament in March."

A. have
B. is offering
C. was offering
D. Keep it as written.

9. Which option for the underlined verb agrees with the full subject of the sentence?

"Repairing the weathered wooden bleachers before the first home game requires more volunteers than the athletic boosters expected."

A. were requiring
B. Keep it as written.
C. have required
D. require

10. Which two sentences have verbs that agree with their subjects?

☐ A. The mural on the east wall and the bench beside it were painted by the same art class.
☐ B. The coach and her two assistants plans each practice together on Sunday evenings.
☐ C. The key to the equipment lockers hangs on a hook behind the attendance counter.
☐ D. The permission forms that every chaperone signs is due in the main office on Friday.
☐ E. The quality of the photographs in these yearbooks have improved every year.