

- Wangari Maathai was the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Her achievements on behalf of women and the environment are remarkable.

Which sentence has a singular subject? ___ Circle the bold verb in it.

Which sentence has a plural subject? ___ Box the bold verb in it.

Am, is, was, are, and were are forms of the verb ***be***. They often serve as linking verbs, connecting the subject of a sentence to a word or words in the predicate that tell about the subject. Use *am* after the pronoun *I*. Use *is* or *was* after a singular subject or after the pronoun *he, she, or it*. Use *are* or *were* after a plural subject or after the pronoun *we, you, or they*.



Remember to use this information when you speak, too.

See Handbook Sections 17 and 29

Part 1

Underline the correct form of *be* in each sentence.

- Nyeri, Kenya (was/were) the birthplace of Wangari Maathai.
- During Maathai's youth in Kenya, very few girls (was/were) able to attend college.
- Maathai earned two degrees in the United States; biology (was/were) her field of study.
- She later (was/were) the recipient of a Ph.D. and then became a professor.
- In 1977 Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement; it (is/are) primarily an organization of women.
- The destruction of forests and woodlands (is/are) a serious problem in East Africa.
- Another problem in East African countries (is/are) a lack of opportunities for poor women.
- One mission of Maathai's organization (is/are) to plant trees in African communities.
- Trees planted by the Green Belt Movement (is/are) important in fighting deforestation.
- Women in the organization (is/are) paid workers, and their earnings help their families.
- In 2002 Maathai (was/were) the winner of a seat in Kenya's parliament.
- The lands of East Africa (is/are) greener, thanks to Maathai's tireless efforts.