

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


## Making Subject and Verb Agree: Special Cases

### Lesson 57

# Read and Discover

The Folkways Club meets on Thursdays. "Cinderellas from Many Cultures" is the title of this week's discussion. Everybody has a different version of the story to read.

Look at the boldfaced subjects of these sentences. Circle the proper noun that refers to a group of people but does not end in *s*. Underline the story title. Draw a box around the indefinite pronoun. Do the verbs that follow these subjects agree with singular subjects or with plural subjects? \_\_\_\_\_

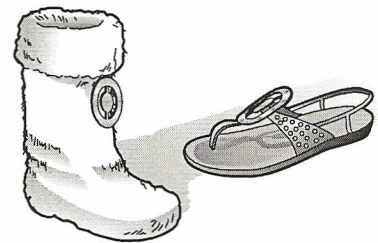
The **subject** and its **verb must agree**. There are special rules for certain kinds of subjects. **Titles** of books, movies, stories, or songs are considered singular even if they end in *-s*. (*"The Three Little Pigs" is my little brother's favorite story.*) A **collective noun**, such as *collection, group, team, country, kingdom, family, flock, and herd*, names more than one person or object acting together as one group. These nouns are almost always considered singular. (*Katie's team wins every game.*) Most **indefinite pronouns**, including *everyone, nobody, nothing, something, and anything*, are considered singular. (*Everyone likes pizza.*) A few indefinite pronouns, such as *many* and *several*, are considered plural. (*Many like spaghetti.*)  **Remember to use this information when you speak, too.**

See Handbook Sections 17f, 18f

## Part 1

Underline the simple subject in each sentence. Then circle the correct form of each verb in parentheses.

1. "Cinderella and the Little Glass Slipper" (is/are) a story with a fascinating history.
2. Almost every culture (has/have) a collection of folktales it passes from generation to generation.
3. Many (seems/seem) to have their own version of a Cinderella story, in which a poor, mistreated girl wins the love of a prince.
4. My favorite folktale collection (include/includes) versions of this tale from Russia, Appalachia, Egypt, and Vietnam.
5. "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters" (is/are) a version from Zimbabwe.
6. "Boots and the Glass Mountain" (comes/come) from Norway.
7. Something (is/are) unique about each version of the story.
8. Cinderella's footwear (is/are) sometimes made of glass, sometimes of fur, and sometimes of gold.
9. In some versions Cinderella makes friends with the birds, and a flock (helps/help) her with difficult chores.
10. *Grimm's Fairy Tales* (includes/include) the grisly German version, in which Cinderella's sisters cut off their toes to try to fit into her shoe.
11. But everyone easily (recognizes/recognize) each of these stories as a Cinderella story.
12. In almost every version, Cinderella's family (mistreats/mistreat) her.
13. A prince finds the slipper of a beautiful, mysterious woman, and the whole kingdom (tries/try) it on for size.
14. Nobody (fits/fit) into the slipper but Cinderella.
15. When the prince and Cinderella marry, the whole country (rejoices/rejoice)—except Cinderella's family.



The footwear in the Cinderella stories reflects different cultures.