

Name: _____

Making Subject and Verb Agree: Special Cases

Lesson 57

Read and Discover

Everybody in my family enjoys stories by Mark Twain. *Life on the Mississippi* is my favorite book. My family comes from Hannibal, Missouri, where Twain grew up.

Look at the boldfaced subjects of these sentences. Circle the noun that refers to more than one person but is considered singular. Underline the book title. Draw a box around the indefinite pronoun. Are the verbs that follow these subjects used 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 Borrowers is my little brother's favorite book.*) A **collective noun**, such as *collection, group, team, country, kingdom, family, flock, or 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. (*Everybody 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 15, 17f, 18f

Part 1

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

1. Everyone in my class (is/are) reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
2. Many (is/are) aware that Samuel Clemens used the name *Mark Twain* as a pseudonym, or pen name.
3. Nobody in my class (know/knows) what that name means.
4. The phrase *mark twain* (refer/refers) to the second mark on a stick used by riverboat crews to measure the depth of the Mississippi River.
5. A shout of "mark twain" (mean/means) the river is deep enough for a steamboat to pass.
6. My favorite collection of Mark Twain's writings (is/are) the book *Life on the Mississippi*.
7. *Life on the Mississippi* (describe/describes) Twain's experiences learning to pilot a steamboat.
8. My family (has/have) copies of several of Twain's works.
9. Not everybody in my family (enjoy/enjoys) Twain's memoirs as much as I do.
10. Many of us (love/loves) his humorous stories, though.
11. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (is/are) one of our favorites.
12. Right now my mother's book group (is/are) reading Twain's book about King Arthur.
13. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (tell/tells) the story of a young American who finds himself transported back to medieval England.
14. *The Prince and the Pauper* (is/are) a fun movie to watch.