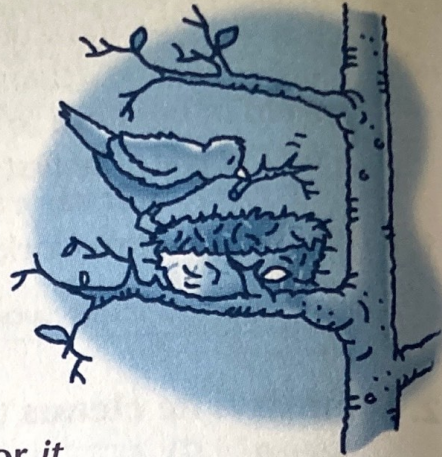


Lesson 14: More Present-Tense Verbs

LEARN

- A verb in the present tense must *agree* with the subject of the sentence. Both the subject and the verb must be either singular or plural.
- Follow these rules to make a present-tense verb agree with the subject.



For verbs that end in *ss, ch, sh, zz, or x*:

- Add *-es* when the subject is a singular noun or *he, she, or it*.
press + es = **presses** watch + es = **watches**
Jackie **presses** a seed into the soil. She **watches** the seed grow.
- Do not add *-es* when the subject is a plural noun or *I, we, you, or they*.
The students **press** seeds into the soil.
They **watch** the seeds grow.

For verbs that end in a consonant and *y*:

- Change *y* to *i*, and add *-es* when the subject is a singular noun or *he, she, or it*.
fly + es = **flies** hurry + es = **hurries**
A robin **flies** to the oak tree. It **hurries** to its nest.
- Do not change *y* to *i* or add *-es* when the subject is a plural noun or *I, we, you, or they*.
Robins **fly** to the oak tree.
They **hurry** to their nests.

PRACTICE

A Choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject. Then write the verb on the line.

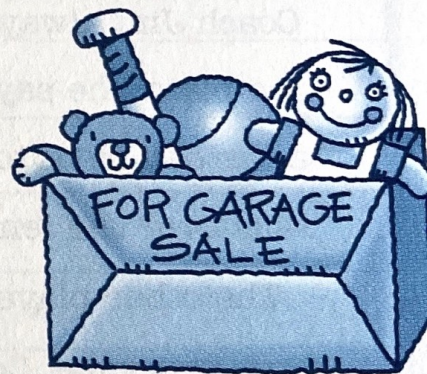
1. The students discuss the signs of spring. (discuss, discusses)
2. My nose itches from pollen in the air. (itch, itches)
3. Baby birds hatch in their nests. (hatch, hatches)
4. Geese fly to their spring and summer homes. (fly, flies)

PRACTICE A *continued*

5. We watch the birds in the sky. (watch, watches)
6. The air conditioner buzzes on and off. (buzz, buzzes)
7. Pet owners brush shedding hair from dogs and cats. (brush, brushes)
8. Mom searches the closet for lighter clothes. (search, searches)
9. Fans hurry to baseball games. (hurry, hurries)
10. The worker patches the potholes in the road. (patch, patches)

B Write the present-tense form of the verb in parentheses to correctly complete each sentence.

1. Many families try to do spring cleaning in April. (try)
2. Six family members dress in old clothes. (dress)
3. Grandma fixes a broken curtain rod. (fix)
4. George washes the windows. (wash)
5. He reaches them on a stepladder. (reach)
6. The twins rush upstairs. (rush)
7. They wax the wooden floors. (wax)
8. Ms. Jones wishes the garage was neater. (wish)
9. She tosses things in boxes for a garage sale. (toss)
10. Mr. Jones dries the curtains in the sun. (dry)
11. Spring cleaning day passes quickly. (pass)
12. The adults relax at the end of the day. (relax)



Remember

A verb in the present tense must agree with the subject of the sentence. Both the subject and the verb must be either singular or plural.

C Jason wrote about baseball tryouts in an email to his aunt. He made seven errors in subject-verb agreement. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

I show up for the baseball tryouts every spring, and I ^{try} ~~tries~~ my best. Baseball is my favorite sport, even though I am not the best player.

When I play left field, I miss a lot of balls. The high ones fly right over me. Fast grounders ^{pass} ~~passes~~ between my legs.

To be honest I'm not much better at the plate. The ball ^{flies} ~~fly~~ right past me, and I usually strike out. Coach Jim always ^{stresses} ~~stress~~ one thing. "Don't tense up at the plate," he says. This time I ^{relax} ~~relaxes~~. The pitcher ^{itches} ~~pitch~~ a fastball right toward me. I smack the ball hard, and it sails over the fence.

The other players ^{rush} ~~pushes~~ toward me. I get high fives from everyone. Coach Jim tells me the good news. "Congratulations! You made the team," he says. It looks like I am finally on the path to being a great athlete!

Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- Period
- ✓ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter

Look Back

Did you correct the seven errors in subject-verb agreement?



WRITE

The verb is the main word in the predicate of a sentence. Sometimes you can combine two related sentences by joining the verbs. Use the word **and** to join the verbs.

Charlie washes quickly. Charlie dresses quickly.
 Charlie washes **and** dresses quickly.

Combining sentences in this way will make your writing smoother and clearer.



D Combine each pair of sentences by joining the verbs.

1. People play in the park. People relax in the park. _____
 People play and relax in the park.

2. Sue smells the cherry blossoms. Sue touches the cherry blossoms. _____
 Sue smells and touches the cherry blossoms.

3. Children make kites. Children fly kites. _____
 Children make and fly kites.

4. Karen grabs a football. Karen tosses a football. _____
 Karen grabs and tosses a football.

5. Mia sees the ball. Mia catches the ball. _____
 Mia sees and catches the ball.

6. Their friends watch them. Their friends encourage them. _____
 Their friends watch and encourage them.

7. Mr. Ruiz observes the players. Mr. Ruiz coaches the players. _____
 Mr. Ruiz observes and coaches the players.



Go back to the sentences you wrote. Circle the verbs that you joined.