Subject-Verb Agreement Activity Sheet

Let’s examine common subject-verb agreement mistakes that people make when writing.

1. What is wrong with these sentences using singular-plural simple subjects?

   A woman sing.
   
   The boy sit.
   
   Office workers succumbs to boredom.

   Not only do these examples sound clunky, it is also much easier to pinpoint in them where the writer went wrong. If the simple subject is singular, the verb must be plural. On the other hand, if the simple subject is plural, the verb must be made singular. Write out the corrections below:

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

2. Concerning indefinite subjects and verb agreements—singular indefinite subjects must agree with the verb, and indefinite plural subjects subsequently do the same. What went wrong with these sentences?

   Each owns a miniscule amount.
   
   Neither (one) know completely what just happened.

   These examples are a bit trickier—“each” seems like a multiplicative concept, and neither seems singular. However, notice that neither implies a focus on one of many, and each speaks to a singular subject out of a group. Correct these sentences accordingly below:

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
3. **Compound subjects** can be difficult as well. Compounds joined by *and* are always expressed as plural subjects, while compounds joined by *or/nor* have verbs that agree with the subject closes to the verb. Take a look at the errors in these sentences.

   Ijeoma and Helen is going to be at CenterStage to watch the play *Jazz*.

   Neither Phu nor Rey understand what happened two days ago.

   Liz and her fellow editors has worked so hard on the latest issue of the student-run Literary Magazine.

   Ijeoma and Helen act as a concept with multiple aspects. Notice how “Neither Phu nor Rey” references the “neither” rule from the former example addressed earlier in the worksheet, but still must follow the rule of the compound subject. Try to correct these below:

4. **Relative clauses** can be tough. These are sentences that speak generally about a potential subject by inserting *who/that/which* before the verb. The verb here always
agrees with the number and person. Here are some sentences with errors. Try to correct them using what you’ve learned:

The student that study tends to have a smoother college career.

Doctors who recommends this medicine make sure their patients knows how to take it.

There are many colors that is in the LGBT Pride flag.