

WORKSHEET 3

Using Subjects and Verbs with Prepositional Phrases (Rule 2 c)

EXERCISE A Circle the prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Then, underline the subject in each sentence and the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

EXAMPLE 1. The poems (in our literature book) (*is, are*) well chosen.

1. The descriptions in the poem about Paul Revere almost (*makes, make*) you forget where you are.
2. Many lines in the poem (*is, are*) especially good.
3. The tramp of feet (*is, are*) heard.
4. The hurrying hoofbeats of Paul Revere's horse (*shatters, shatter*) the silence.
5. The scenes on each village street (*lives, live*) again.
6. Many poems by Longfellow (*has, have*) effective descriptive passages.
7. One of my favorite poems (*is, are*) Lewis Carroll's "Father William."
8. The antics of the old man always (*makes, make*) me laugh.
9. Some of the father's answers to his son (*is, are*) particularly amusing.
10. The father's reason for doing headstands (*tickles, tickle*) my funny bone.

EXERCISE B In the following paragraph, underline the correct form of the italicized verbs in parentheses.

EXAMPLE The Roman god of travel [1] (*was, were*) Mercury.

Of all the planets, Mercury [1] (*is, are*) nearest the sun. The orbit of Mercury [2] (*put, puts*) it within 28,600,000 miles of the sun. Mercury, because of its small orbit, [3] (*move, moves*) faster around the sun than any other planet does. The planet, according to ancient myths, [4] (*was, were*) named after the messenger of the Roman gods. This messenger of theirs [5] (*was, were*) considered to be very fast. Art and stories about him [6] (*describes, describe*) him as wearing winged sandals. At 59 days, Mercury's rotation on its axis [7] (*take, takes*) much longer than Earth's, but the length of Mercury's year [8] (*is, are*) much shorter than Earth's. The planet nearest the sun [9] (*complete, completes*) its orbit in only 88 days. If people live on Mercury, their concept of time surely [10] (*seem, seems*) different from ours.

