

## WORKSHEET 4

Ensuring Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns  
(Rules 2 d–f)

**EXERCISE A** Underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with its subject in each of the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE 1.** Everybody on the field trip (*know*, *knows*) not to get close to the bears.

1. Anybody who is interested in boats (*needs*, *need*) to know how to swim.
2. Everyone in Ms. Gobel's classes (*like*, *likes*) her.
3. Most of the students (*prefers*, *prefer*) to go to Paris.
4. Some of these shirts (*costs*, *cost*) eighteen dollars.
5. Several in the eighth grade (*wants*, *want*) to have a class picnic in the spring.
6. Everyone in this group (*has*, *have*) a very definite preference.
7. Both of the maples in our front yard (*turns*, *turn*) red in the fall.
8. Some of the sky (*becomes*, *become*) lighter at dawn.
9. Neither of my grandmothers (*has*, *have*) retired.
10. Few of the documents (*was*, *were*) authentic.

**EXERCISE B** Some of the following sentences contain errors in agreement between the subject and the verb. If the italicized verb is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct verb on the line provided. If the sentence is already correct, write C.

**EXAMPLE** was 1. One of our visits ~~were~~ to the planetarium.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Many of us *has* been fascinated by the wonders of outer space.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Some in our class *is* looking toward the unknown with expectation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Not one of our astronomers *know* whether life exists on planets in other solar systems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. None of the astronomers *is* sure whether we will encounter hospitable environments on other worlds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Not everyone *want* to explore the unknown.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Several among us *fears* that alien life forms may be hostile.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A few of us *dream* of being among the first explorers of another planet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. *Does* any of you ever read a science fiction story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Many of the authors *fills* the universe with unusual creatures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Among science fiction writers, some *has* made predictions that have come true.

# Subject-Verb Agreement 4

When it comes to subject-verb agreement, **indefinite pronouns** can definitely be disagreeable and confusing. Some indefinite pronouns are singular. They act as singular subjects and use singular verbs. Singular indefinite pronouns are *another, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, nothing, one, somebody, someone, and something*.

Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural—it depends on the noun they refer to. When the noun in a prepositional phrase following the indefinite pronoun is singular, use a singular verb. When that noun is plural, use a plural verb. These indefinite pronouns include *all, any, most, none, and some*. (See page 89 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)

## EXAMPLES

Anybody who falls down a hill is in danger of being injured.

(As a subject, the singular pronoun *anybody* needs the singular verb *is*.)

Luckily, all of the water in the pail was saved.

(Since *water* is singular, the pronoun subject *all* is singular, requiring the singular verb *was*.)

All of the water bugs in the pail were not saved.

(Since *bugs* is plural, the pronoun subject *all* is plural, requiring the plural verb *were*.)

## Directions

Correct any errors in subject-verb agreement in the following sentences by changing the verbs.

- Neither Jack's parents nor Jill's mother ~~carry~~ <sup>carries</sup> medical insurance.
- Each of them ask the well's owner to pay the hospital bills.
- None of the parties agrees, so they go to court.
- According to Jack, some of the boards around the well was missing.
- "No way," says the owner. "All of that wooden platform were there."
- Everyone in the courtroom start talking to one another.
- The jury reaches its verdict, and nobody are very happy with it.
- Half of the medical bills is to be paid by the well's owner.