

Subject-Verb Agreement D

- 8d.** The following indefinite pronouns are singular: *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, somebody, someone, and something*.
- 8e.** The following indefinite pronouns are plural: *both, few, many, several*.
- 8f.** The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* may be either singular or plural, depending on their meaning in a sentence.

EXAMPLES **Nobody** on our street **throws** a better fastball than Otis.
Many of his pitches **blaze** past the batter.
None of Jana's effort **is** wasted.
Some of Mr. Green's tomatoes **are** prize winners!

EXERCISE A Circle the indefinite pronoun in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example 1. Either of the vegetables (*are, is*) a good choice for the salad.

- One of my brothers (*plants, plant*) tomatoes every year.
- No one on my block (*believes, believe*) his plants will grow.
- Everyone in the neighborhood (*says, say*) the soil is not good enough.
- Most of the plants (*does, do*) not do very well.
- A few of them (*reaches, reach*) full size.
- Usually everyone in the family (*eats, eat*) these tomatoes in a salad.
- Most of the salad (*is, are*) greens.
- Several of us (*prefers, prefer*) blue cheese dressing on the salad.
- None of us (*likes, like*) that kind of salad dressing.
- All of the tomatoes (*is, are*) eaten before they spoil.

EXERCISE B Circle the indefinite pronoun in each of the following sentences. Above the pronoun write *S* if it is singular or *P* if it is plural. Then, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example 1. ^SEveryone in a successful band (*practices, practice*) frequently.

- Some of my cousins (*is, are*) in musical bands.
- All of my classmates (*listens, listen*) to them.
- Any of the bands (*plays, play*) for private parties.
- None of our neighbors ever (*complains, complain*) when the bands practice.
- Most of their music (*is, are*) enjoyable.

Subject-Verb Agreement E

A pronoun that does not refer to a definite person, place, thing, or idea is called an *indefinite pronoun*.

USAGE

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EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the correct indefinite pronoun in parentheses.

Example 1. (All, Many) of the fruit has been put in the refrigerator.

1. (One, Several) of my sisters runs in the marathon every year.
2. (Many, Nobody) is predicting rain for tomorrow.
3. (Everyone, Several) wears a coat in this weather.
4. (One, Many) of us sometimes forget to bring lunch.
5. (Both, Each) of my brothers like algebra.
6. (None, No one) of the performances take place outside.
7. (Someone, Few) are strong enough to swim across the English Channel.
8. (All, Neither) have seen that movie.
9. (Each, Most) has an opinion about the review in the newspaper.
10. (Somebody, Both) have been given that responsibility.

EXERCISE B Circle the indefinite pronoun in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example 1. (Most) of the potatoes (*has*, have) been harvested.

11. Everybody (*is*, *are*) welcome at the skating party.
12. I hope nobody (*forgets*, *forget*) to bring skates.
13. Many of my friends (*is*, *are*) good skaters.
14. All of us (*enjoys*, *enjoy*) the music at the skating rink.
15. Most of the music (*is*, *are*) popular dance music.