23.1 Agreement With Confusing Subjects
• Practice 2

Exercise 1  Making Confusing Subjects Agree With Their Verbs. Underline the item in the parentheses that agrees with the subject of each sentence.

1. *The Wings of a Dove (is, are) an acclaimed novel.*
2. Everybody in the bank (was, were) stunned by the incident.
3. Marauding ants (was, were) one reason we left the picnic.
4. Behind the house (stands, stand) an old oak tree.
5. Six feet (is, are) the amount of wire we need.
6. Several of the hostages (was, were) released.
7. Above our heads (is, are) a skylight.
8. The squadron (was, were) flying off in various directions.
9. The committee (disagree, disagrees) on a course of action.
10. The news of his death (was, were) a surprise to everyone.
11. *(There’s, There are) only two roads leading to their house.*
12. Mathematics (is, are) not one of my best subjects.
13. One cause of lung cancer (is, are) cigarettes.
14. Some of the ice cream (has, have) melted.
15. Several of the contestants (were, was) quite nervous.
16. The pliers (is, are) in the toolbox.
17. Half of my problems (was, were) solved by his generosity.
18. *North by Northwest (is, are) a film I have seen three times.*
19. The man’s ethics (is, are) beyond reproach.
20. Twenty-five cents (is, are) more than enough for this.

Writing Application  Applying the Rules of Subject and Verb Agreement. Use each item at the beginning of a sentence, followed by the verb *is* or the verb *are.*

1. *either you or he*
2. *politics*
3. *some of the books*
4. *lumber and nails*
5. *behind the chair*
6. *fifty cents*
7. *confetti*
8. *most of the punch*
9. *both puppies*
10. *one of the games*