

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about subject/verb agreement after expressions of quantity:

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY	
$\left(\begin{array}{c} \textit{all} \\ \textit{most} \\ \textit{some} \\ \textit{half} \end{array} \right)$	OF THE (OBJECT)
When an expression of quantity is the subject, the verb agrees with the object.	

EXERCISE 21: Each of the following sentences has a quantity expression as the subject. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the objects that the verbs agree with. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. The witnesses saw that most of the (fire) in the hills was extinguished.
- I 2. Some of the (animals) from the zoo was released into the animal preserve.
- _____ 3. All of the students in the class taught by Professor Roberts is required to turn in their term papers next Monday.
- _____ 4. Half of the food that we are serving to the guests are still in the refrigerator.
- _____ 5. We believe that some of the time of the employees is going to be devoted to quality control.
- _____ 6. All of the witnesses in the jury trial, which lasted more than two weeks, have indicated that they believed that the defendant was guilty.
- _____ 7. She did not know where most of the people in the room was from.
- _____ 8. In spite of what was decided at the meeting, half of the procedures was not changed.
- _____ 9. I was sure that all of the questions on the test were correct.
- _____ 10. Most of the trouble that the employees discussed at the series of meetings was resolved within a few weeks.

SKILL 22: MAKE INVERTED VERBS AGREE

We have seen that sometimes in English the subject comes after the verb. This can occur after question words (Skill 15), after place expressions (Skill 16), after negative expressions (Skill 17), after omitted conditionals (Skill 18), and after some comparisons (Skill 19). When the subject and verb are inverted, it can be difficult to locate them, and it can therefore be a problem to make them agree.

(Behind the house) was* the bicycles I wanted.

(Behind the houses) were* the bicycle I wanted.

In the first example it is easy to think that *house* is the subject, because it comes directly in front of the verb *was*. *House* is not the subject, however, because it is the object of the preposition *behind*. The subject of the sentence is *bicycles*, and the subject *bicycles* comes after the verb because of the place expression *behind the house*. Because the subject *bicycles* is plural, the verb should be changed to the plural *were*. In the second example the subject *bicycle* comes after the verb *were* because of the place expression *behind the houses*. Because the subject *bicycle* is singular, the verb should be changed to the singular *was*.

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about subject/verb agreement after inverted verbs:

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT AFTER INVERTED VERBS	
<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> (question negative place condition (no if) comparison) </div>	
After question words, negative expressions, place expressions, conditions without <i>if</i> , and comparisons, the <i>verb</i> agrees with the <i>subject</i> , which may be after the <i>verb</i> .	

EXERCISE 22: Each of the following sentences contains an inverted subject and verb. Circle the word or group of words that causes the subject and verb to invert. Find the subject and verb that follow these words. Underline the subject once and the verb twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

C 1. (Only once) this morning were the letters delivered by the campus mail service.

I 2. (Around the corner and to the right) is the rooms that have been assigned to that program.

_____ 3. What in the world is the children trying to do?

_____ 4. John would be studying the chapters were he able to get hold of the book.

_____ 5. This chapter has many more exercises than do the next one.

_____ 6. The computer programmer was unaware that there was so many mistakes in the program he had written.

_____ 7. Seldom in the history of television has two new comedies been so successful in one season.

_____ 8. How many huge mistakes have the teacher actually found in the research paper?

_____ 9. The new phone system is able to hold far more messages than was the phone system that had previously been used.

_____ 10. In the parking lot south of the stadium was the cars that were about to be towed.