

29 Agreement, verb forms, modifiers and logical parallelism

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS finite verb • antecedent • modifier

Objective

- Match verbs and pronouns to their actual referents
- Choose tense and verb form from the passage’s time relationship
- Place modifiers and parallel elements so their logical subject is clear

Original public practice; marks below are classroom self-check points, not official criteria.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

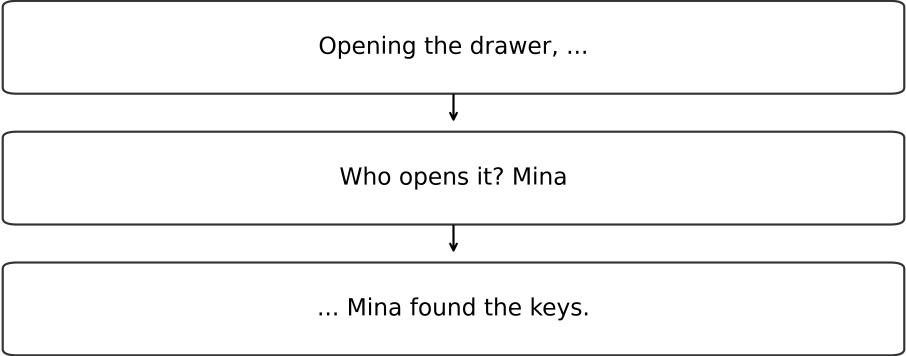
Find the head of the subject rather than agreeing with the nearest noun. A singular collection takes is even when a following of-phrase contains plural maps. A pronoun must agree with and clearly refer to its antecedent . If two possible antecedents make a pronoun ambiguous, a precise noun can restore the intended reference.

Choose verb tense from the surrounding timeline and logical relationship, not an isolated word. A completed event at a stated past time normally takes a past form. Perfect forms can mark an event before another reference time. An infinitive or participle is not automatically a finite verb and cannot alone supply the main predicate.

An introductory modifier must attach to the appropriate subject. “Walking through the gallery, Maya noticed the new labels” makes Maya the walker. “Walking through the gallery, the labels attracted Maya” incorrectly makes the labels walk. Identify the performer of the introductory action, then check the main subject.

Parallel structures put comparable ideas into compatible grammatical forms: “to collect, to classify and to display” or “collecting, classifying and displaying”. A comparison must compare like things, such as one museum’s hours with another’s hours, not hours with a museum. Meaning and structure work together; a grammatically shaped choice can still create an illogical reference.

Agreement follows the subject head, not the nearest noun. “The set of keys is missing” has singular set. An introductory modifier must describe the correct actor: “Opening the drawer, Mina found the keys.” “Opening the drawer, the keys appeared” incorrectly makes keys do the opening.



Worked steps: Opening the drawer, ... → Who opens it? Mina → ... Mina found the keys.

Worked example. Original agreement: “The list of proposed changes includes a longer opening period.” List is singular, so includes is correct. Modifier repair: “After examining the samples, the researchers revised their prediction.” Researchers examine; a version beginning “After examining the samples, the prediction...” dangles. Parallel repair: “The team aimed to record, analyse and publish the findings.”

■ Practice material

Editing passage. The collection of donated tools [1: include/includes] three old drills. Examining the smallest drill, [2: a crack surprised Jo/Jo noticed a crack]. Yesterday Jo [3: repairs/repared] the casing. The volunteer team plans to clean, [4: label/labelling], and display the tools. The museum’s opening hours are longer than [5: the archive/the archive’s opening hours].

2 Practice

2.1 Choose: “The collection of letters ____ in the archive.” [1]

- **A** were being have
- **B** is
- **C** are
- **D** have

2.2 Which modifier is logically attached? [1]

- A Examining the map, the table shook.
- B Examining the map, the weather improved.
- C Examining the map, Lina found the route.
- D Examining the map, the route appeared.

2.3 “Yesterday the team _____ the report.” Use the past of finish. [1]

2.4 The noun nearest a verb always determines agreement. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

Use the complete original case context in section 1.

3.1 Choose forms at [1]–[5] and explain their grammatical and logical roles. [3]

3.2 “Before the shop opened last Monday, Jo had checked the drills.” Explain the relationship conveyed by had checked. Is the past perfect required in every sentence about two past events? [3]

3.3 Repair “When Jo met Mina, she showed her the repaired drill” so that Jo is clearly the person presenting and Mina receives it. Give a parallel list of three possible maintenance actions. [3]