



In Class Exercises Set A

Answers and Explanations: WR SVA

PART I

- 1) When two subjects are linked with OR, the subject closer to the verb is used for conjugation.
- 2) Two subjects linked with AND are always plural. (Note: the above rules do not apply to titles and complex nouns.)
- 3) Gerund phrases are always singular (and nifty).
- 4) Who cares? It's not an SAT question! (It's Dwight D. Eisenhower, FYI)
- 5) Collective Nouns describe multiple subjects in a single noun, such as *team*, *group*, *herd*, and *romp* (plural otters).
- 6) Indefinite pronouns refer to multiple people or things one-at-a-time in the abstract, such as *someone* or *anything*.
- 7) Prepositional phrases are *ignored* when considering subject-verb agreement, except for SAMMAN pronouns.
- 8) He requested that a lawyer **was be** present at next Tuesday's meeting. (Because the request is in the future, 'was' is inappropriate. The idiom is that a 'request be' completed.)
- 9) **If Were** the politician's activity publicly known, the public would be outraged over the **flaunting flouting** of the rule of law. (The subjunctive mood requires a plural verb. Additionally, *flaunt* is to show off but *flout* is to ignore the rules.)
OR...
If the politician's activity publicly known, **then** the public would be outraged over the **flaunting flouting** of the rule of law. (If... then is idiomatically correct)
- 10) A sense of confusion about the assignment began to **envelope envelop** the class: **less fewer** questions had been assigned **in this**. (*Envelope* is a noun but *envelop* is a verb. Additionally, use *fewer* for countable items and eliminate unnecessary pronouns.)

PART II

- 1) The answer is **B**). Remember the rule of AND: only the word 'and' can form a compound plural subject; therefore, this sentence has a singular subject. It may seem like a plural subject due to the 'in addition to' phrase, but this prepositional phrase is not part of the actual subject. 'Has replaced' is the only choice conjugated for a singular subject.
- 2) The answer is **A**). Remember the rule of OR: when two subjects are joined by 'or,' the one closest to the verb conjugates it. In this case, that subject is 'program,' which is singular, eliminating options B and D. Option C is in the wrong tense (past perfect should only be used to predate use in the past), and is unnecessarily wordy, a problem that College Board has stressed lately.
- 3) The answer is **C**). Hopefully, you weren't fooled into picking 'NO CHANGE.' While the sentence is conjugated for its plural subject, the past perfect should be used to predate the past action (debate beginning) in the first part of the sentence.
- 4) The answer is **C**). The sentence references the House's 'new bill' (introduced in sentence 2) and discusses the process of the Senate changing the bill, whose final product (the Senate's version), is elaborated on in sentence 3.
- 5) The answer is **B**). *Neither* is always singular, so the answer must be 'was.' 'Were' and 'have been' are plural and deleting the verb creates a fragment.
- 6) The answer is **B**). Remember that a dependent clause followed by an independent clause is separated with a comma. FANBOYS + commas and semicolons are used to join two independent clauses.
- 7) The answer is **A**). *Most* is a SAMAN pronoun: like a fraction, percentage, or measurement, it is conjugated based on the object of the latter prepositional phrase. Since *Senators* and *Congresspeople* are plural, 'fear' is conjugated correctly. 'Fearing' requires an auxiliary verb (as a participle) and the other two are singular.
- 8) The answer is **C**). This question is tricky, but don't put it past the SAT. The sentence is inverted: the subject, *solutions*, comes after the verb. Plural subjects must use a plural verb, and because the solutions currently lie on the docket (present tense), the answer should be 'lie.'