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C2 AGREEMENT ≈ 27 MIN

Agreement: Edge Cases — *practice on paper*

You know the edge cases — now calibrate fresh organisation sentences by meaning, proximity, and register.

Meaning or proximity selects singular/plural; with number expressions, read the **whole phrase** .

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ◯ 2 · FILL-IN ◯ 3 · CORRECT ◯ 4 · WRITE ◯

BRICK 1 · SORT SINGULAR OR PLURAL · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each English sentence by its verb number. Singular goes left and plural right; check the reading, proximity, and full number expression.

The committee remains united. | Neither the files nor the folder remains open.

The number of returns continues to rise. | Each of the bids carries a deadline.

The data looks complete. (business) | The staff disagree on the dates. (BrE)

Neither the folder nor the files remain open. | A number of refunds remain pending.

The data look complete. (formal science) | The jury exchange notes before voting. (BrE)

SINGULAR VERB	PLURAL VERB

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE THE VERB FORM · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Insert exactly the word given in the cue. The context note fixes the reading or register and keeps every gap unambiguous.

01 The steering group _____ ready as one unit. (use is)

02 The staff _____ split over the rota. (BrE; use are)

03 Either the options or the deadline _____ today. (use changes)

04 Neither the deadline nor the options _____ today. (use change)

05 A number of client records _____ incomplete. (use stay)

06 The number of open cases _____ our backlog. (use reflects)

07 Each of the regional plans _____ a sponsor. (use gets)

08 For this business memo, the data _____ complete. (use is)

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING ○ | 2 · FILL-IN ○ | 3 · CORRECT ○ | 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 3 · CORRECT THE AGREEMENT · APPROX. 7 MIN ●●○

Each English sentence contains exactly one real agreement error. Use the context cue and change only the incorrect verb form.

01 The audit team have filed its final note. (AmE: unit)

02 The crew is checking their assigned stations. (BrE: members)

03 Either the assistants or the manager approve the request.

04 A number of warranty claims is still open.

05 The number of damaged units have fallen.

06 Each of the site visits require a host.

BRICK 4 · WRITE PRECISE EDGE CASES · APPROX. 8 MIN ●●●

Write one English sentence for each prompt. Identify the reading, region, or nearest subject and keep the verb and pronoun consistent.

01 AmE report: present a working group as one unit and use a matching pronoun.

02 BrE minutes: show individual committee members with a plural verb and pronoun.

03 Delivery status: build either-or with a plural subject directly before the verb.

04 Metrics: contrast a number of and the number of in two fresh sentences.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I choose a unit or member reading before matching the collective verb.
- ☐ I keep the verb and pronoun in the same number.
- ☐ With either-or and neither-nor, I check the nearer subject.
- ☐ I read a number of, the number of, data, and each of as complete expressions.

Still unsure? Mark the meaning, region, or nearest subject first, then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 The committee remains united.
Singular verb: the collective acts as one unit.

02 Neither the files nor the folder remains open.
Singular verb: the nearer subject is singular.

03 The number of returns continues to rise.
Singular verb: the number names one total.

04 Each of the bids carries a deadline.
Singular verb: each of controls agreement.

05 The data looks complete. (business)
Singular verb: business data is singular here.

06 The staff disagree on the dates. (BrE)
Plural verb: the collective means individual members.

07 Neither the folder nor the files remain open.
Plural verb: the nearer subject is plural.

08 A number of refunds remain pending.
Plural verb: a number of means several cases.

09 The data look complete. (formal science)
Plural verb: formal data remains plural here.

10 The jury exchange notes before voting. (BrE)
Plural verb: the BrE collective means individual members.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 The steering group **is** ready as one unit.
Unit reading: the collective takes singular agreement.

02 The staff **are** split over the rota.
Member reading: the BrE collective takes plural agreement.

03 Either the options or the deadline **changes** today.
Proximity: the singular subject comes last.

04 Neither the deadline nor the options **change** today.
Proximity: the plural subject comes last.

05 A number of client records **stay** incomplete.
A number of requires a plural verb.

06 The number of open cases **reflects** our backlog.
The number of requires a singular verb.

07 Each of the regional plans **gets** a sponsor.
Each of requires a singular verb.

08 For this business memo, the data **is** complete.
Business register: data defaults to singular agreement.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 The audit team **has** filed its final note.
AmE unit: verb and pronoun remain singular.

02 The crew **are** checking their assigned stations.
BrE members: verb and pronoun remain plural.

03 Either the assistants or the manager **approves** the request.
Proximity: manager is the nearest subject.

04 A number of warranty claims **are** still open.
A number of controls a plural verb.

05 The number of damaged units **has** fallen.
The number of controls a singular verb.

06 Each of the site visits **requires** a host.
Each of controls a singular verb.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ if the reading and register are clear and the agreement remains fully consistent.

01 The working group **has** completed its review.
AmE unit: verb and pronoun are singular.

02 The committee **are** sharing their objections. (BrE)
BrE members: verb and pronoun are plural.

03 Either the courier or the depots **need** notice.
Proximity: the plural subject comes last.

04 A number of vendors **need** revised terms. The number of renewals **is** lower this month.
Number phrases: a number plural, the number singular.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE
Cleft Sentences
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/cleft-sentences

PREREQUISITE
Each, Every, Either, Neither
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