

Grammar Explanation

Review: Making verbs agree with subjects

- When there is a long noun phrase, identify the base noun and make sure it agrees with the verb. Remember that noun phrases that begin with *one of* take a singular verb.
 - Example: **The candidate** that has the support of most voters **is** Mr. Smith.
 - Example: **One of the defendants** **was** sentenced to three years in prison.

- When using *the + adjective* to refer to a group that is defined by a particular characteristic, such as the rich, the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill, the verbs that follow are plural.
 - Example: **The elderly are** concerned about the future of Social Security.

- When the subject of a sentence is a gerund (verb + *ing*), the verb that follows is singular.
 - Example: **Jogging makes** the heart strong.

Excerpted from: Subject-Verb Agreement: Exercise 5