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