

Chapter 5

Usage

Agreement

Subject and Verb, Pronoun and Antecedent

Certain words that are closely related in sentences have matching forms. Subjects and verbs have this kind of close relationship, as do pronouns and their antecedents. When such words are correctly matched, we say that they *agree* grammatically. Have you ever heard someone say, “He don’t,” or “One of the girls forgot their book”? Each of these errors shows lack of agreement, the first one between subject and verb and the second one between a pronoun and its antecedent.

One way in which two words can agree with each other grammatically is in *number*. Number indicates whether the word refers to one person or thing, or to more than one.

5a. When a word refers to one person or thing, it is singular in number. When a word refers to more than one, it is plural in number.

Nouns and pronouns have number. The following nouns and pronouns are singular because they name or refer to only one person or thing: *hunter, child, it, story*. The following are plural because they refer to more than one: *hunters, children, they, stories*.

EXERCISE 1. Number 1-20 in a column on your paper. After each number, write whether the word is *singular* or *plural*.

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. dentist | 6. each | 11. his | 16. woman |
| 2. dentists | 7. both | 12. our | 17. months |
| 3. someone | 8. these | 13. several | 18. its |
| 4. their | 9. this | 14. foot | 19. cities |
| 5. meter | 10. hoof | 15. motor | 20. dollars |

AGREEMENT OF SUBJECT AND VERB

Verbs have number, too. In order to speak and write standard English, you must make verbs agree with their subjects.

• NOTE To understand this chapter and the following chapters on usage, you should know the meaning of the terms “standard English” and “nonstandard

English.” The word *standard* suggests a model with which things can be compared. In this case, the model – standard English – is the set of usage conventions most widely accepted by English-speaking people. It is the English used, for instance, by radio and TV announcers and newscasters, and in most newspapers, magazines, and books. All other kinds of usage are referred to as *nonstandard* English. This is the term used in this book to describe variations in usage that are avoided in formal writing and speaking. Nonstandard English includes local speech dialects, slang, and various idiomatic usages.

Study the following examples:

STANDARD

Were you there?
It doesn't matter.
They played well.
Can you teach me the rule?
Lena and she went early.

NONSTANDARD

Was you there?
It don't matter.
They played good.
Can you learn me the rule?
Lena and her went early.

5b. A verb agrees with its subject in number.

(1) Singular subjects take singular verbs.

EXAMPLES My friend likes algebra. [The singular verb *likes* agrees with the singular subject *friend*.]
A girl in my class sings in the city chorus. [The singular verb *sings* agrees with the singular subject *girl*.]

(2) Plural subjects take plural verbs.

EXAMPLES My friends like algebra.
Many girls in my class sing in the city chorus.

The plural subjects *friends* and *girls* take the plural verbs *like* and *sing*.

Generally, nouns ending in *s* are plural (*friends, girls*), but verbs ending in *s* are singular (*likes, sings*). Since the form of the verb used with the singular pronouns *I* and *you* is regularly the same as the plural form, agreement in number presents problems mainly in the third person forms.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>First person</i>	I work	We work
<i>Second person</i>	You work	You work
<i>Third person</i>	She works	They work

EXERCISE 2. Number your paper 1-10. Write the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. several (has, have) | 6. everyone (tries, try) |
| 2. many (arrives, arrive) | 7. you (was, were) |
| 3. both (is, are) | 8. either (looks, look) |
| 4. no one (seems, seem) | 9. anyone (reads, read) |
| 5. few (does, do) | 10. it (gives, give) |

5c. The number of the subject is not changed by a phrase following the subject.

Remember that a verb agrees in number with its subject, not with the object of a preposition. *The subject is never part of a prepositional phrase.*

EXAMPLES One of the kites has caught in a tree.
The paintings of Emilio Sanchez were hanging in the gallery.

Compound prepositions such as *together with*, *in addition to*, and *along with* following the subject do not affect the number of the subject.

EXAMPLES Mimi, together with her sisters, has been taking voice lessons.
Charles, along with Maria and Dan, was elected to the Student Council.

EXERCISE 3. *Oral Drill.* Repeat each of the following sentences, stressing the italicized words.

1. Many *facts* in this textbook *are* important.
2. A *knowledge* of rules *helps* you use standard English.
3. Correct *usage* of verbs *is* especially important.
4. Correct *spelling*, in addition to usage of verbs, *is* essential to good writing.
5. *People* in the business world *look* carefully at letters of application.
6. *Letters* with nonstandard English *do* not make a good impression.
7. My *mother*, along with two other officials, *has* been interviewing high school students.
8. *One* of my friends *hopes* to work for Mother's company this summer.
9. Not *one* of the employers, however, *was* pleased with my friend's letter of application.
10. "Every *person* in my office *needs* to know standard English," commented my mother.

EXERCISE 4. Number your paper 1-10. Write after the corresponding number the subject of each sentence. After the subject, write the verb in parentheses that agrees with it.

EXAMPLE 1. Our units of measure often (causes, cause) confusion.

1. *units – cause*

1. The confusion among many American consumers (is, are) understandable.
2. The traditional system of measuring quantities (makes, make) shopping rather difficult.
3. The quantity printed on packages of products like ice cream and yogurt (tells, tell) the number of ounces the package contains.
4. Shoppers who are concerned with value (doesn't, don't) know whether this indicates liquid or solid measure.
5. Different brands of fruit juice (shows, show) the same quantity in different ways.
6. One can with a label showing 24 ounces (equals, equal) another which shows 1 pint 8 ounces.
7. There (isn't, aren't), in the traditional system of weights and measures, a logical relationship between volume and weight.
8. The metric system, which is used throughout the European countries, (solves, solve) much of this confusion.
9. The units of weight and measure in this system (has, have) a relationship to each other.
10. For instance, each liter of water-a thousand cubic centimeters -(weighs, weigh) one kilogram -a thousand grams.

5d. The following pronouns are singular: *each, either, neither, one, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody, someone, somebody.*

Read the following sentences aloud, stressing the subjects and verbs in bold-faced type.

EXAMPLES **Each** of these sounds causes drowsiness. [each one causes]

Neither of the girls is here. [neither one is] .

Either of the dresses is appropriate. [either one is]

Everyone in the class has read the novel.

Someone in the choir was whistling softly.

Note that the first word in each of the example sentences is followed by a

phrase. The object of the preposition in each of the first three sentences is plural: *sounds, girls, dresses*. There is a natural tendency to make the verb agree with these words rather than with its subject. However, since each of the five sentences has a singular pronoun as subject, each verb is also singular.

5e. The following pronouns are plural: *several, few, both, many*.

Study the use of subjects and verbs in these sentences. Read the sentences aloud.

EXAMPLES Few of the students have failed the test.
Several of these plants are poisonous.
Many in the group often ask questions.
Were both of the problems difficult?

5f. The pronouns *some, all, most, any, and none* may be either singular or plural.

These pronouns are singular when they refer to a singular word and plural when they refer to a plural word.

EXAMPLES Some of the food was eaten. [*Some* refers to singular *food*.]
Some of the apples were eaten. [*Some* refers to plural *apples*.]
All of the furniture looks comfortable.
All of the chairs look comfortable.
Most of her writing sounds witty.
Most of her essays sound witty.
Was all of the jewelry stolen?
Were all of the jewels stolen?
None of this work is hard.
None of their jobs are hard.

The words *any* and *none* may be singular even when they refer to a plural word if the speaker is thinking of each item individually, and plural if the speaker is thinking of several things as a group.

EXAMPLES Any of these students is qualified. [*Any one* is qualified.]
Any of these students are qualified. [*All* are qualified.]
None of the cartons was full. [*Not one* was full.]
None of the cartons were full. [*No cartons* were full.]

EXERCISE 5. This exercise covers rules 5d, 5e, and 5f. Number your paper 1-10. Write the subject of each sentence on your paper. Select the correct verb, and write it after the subject.

1. Many of us actually (likes, like) long books.
2. Some of the children (seems, seem) shy.
3. Somebody in the audience (was, were) snoring.
4. Each of us (tries, try) to outdo the other.
5. Both of my parents (has, have) red hair.
6. Few of the pies (was, were) left after the sale.
7. Sometimes everyone in the office (works, work) late.
8. Nobody in my family (is, are) able to remember telephone numbers and addresses.
9. (Has, have) all of the senators returned?
10. (Does, do) either of the students need money to buy decorations?

REVIEW EXERCISE A. Number your paper 1-10. Read each sentence aloud. If the verb agrees with the subject, write a plus (+) on your paper after the corresponding number. If the verb does not agree with the subject, write a zero (0).

1. One of the cabinets contain the club's banner, account books, and membership rolls.
2. Each of the flight attendants are by the plane.
3. Do the new uniforms for the band include hats?
4. Sometimes a leak in the gas pipes is hard to find.
5. The bridges on Highway 34 are extremely narrow.
6. The numbers on the license plate was covered with mud.
7. Yesterday you was asking me about camp.
8. Every one of the clerks have to punch the time clock.
9. One of her assistants answer the telephone.

10. Our assignment for the next two days cover events during the American Revolution.

REVIEW EXERCISE B. Follow the instructions for Review Exercise A.

1. Some of these pictures in the family album show how hair styles change.
2. A bag of baseballs, in addition to three tennis rackets, sit in the corner of her closet.
3. Most of us now agree to these plans.
4. Each of the farmers use heavy machinery for plowing.
5. Some of the salt in these shakers is damp.
6. A carton of fresh eggs was in the refrigerator.
7. Neither of the paintings look finished.
8. Each of the contestants has a chance to win.
9. Does both of the hedges need trimming?
10. Melba, together with other school newspaper editors, are attending a national convention.

The Compound Subject

5g. Subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb.

The following compound subjects joined by *and* name more than one person or thing and must take plural verbs:

Lucille Clifton and Leslie Silko **are** writers. [Two persons are.]

Poetry and prose **differ** in form. [Two things differ.]

If a compound subject names only one person or thing, then the verb must be singular:

The secretary and treasurer **plans** to resign. [One person plans.]

Ham and eggs **is** a good breakfast dish. [The one combination is.]

In the sentences above, the compound subjects are thought of as units (one person, one dish) and are therefore singular.

5h. Singular subjects joined by *or* or *nor* take a singular verb.

EXAMPLES Every Saturday, Gail or Ernie **takes** the wash to the Laundromat. [Either Gail *or* Ernie takes the wash, not both.]
Neither the customer nor the clerk **is** always right. [Neither *one* is always right.]

EXERCISE 6. Number your paper 1-10. Then rewrite the sentences below

according to these instructions. If the sentence has a compound subject joined by *and*, change the conjunction to *or*, and make the necessary change in the number of the verb. If the sentence has a compound subject joined by *or*, change the conjunction to *and*, and make the necessary change in the number of the verb.

EXAMPLES

1. A dog and a cat are tearing up the paper.

1. *A dog or a cat is tearing up the paper.*

2. My father or his friend has finished the plans for the house.

2. *My father and his friend have finished the plans for the house.*

1. Ned and Elena have gone to the science fair.

2. Your jacket and your coat are at the cleaners.

3. The girl and her mother are telling fortunes for the National Honor Society's booth at the school fair.

4. The house on the hill and the cottage in the valley are for sale.

5. *The Contender* or *The Good Earth* has been assigned.

6. Jane or Scott has prepared the punch.

7. Each week a poem and an essay appear in the school newspaper.

8. Rain or snow has been predicted for tomorrow.

9. Venus and Mars do not seem far away when one considers the distance from Earth to the nearest star.

10. The car in front of us and the car parked on the wrong side of the street are to blame for the accident.

5i. When a singular subject and a plural subject are Joined by or or nor, the verb agrees with the subject nearer the verb.

ACCEPTABLE Neither the singers nor the accompanist has memorized the music.

ACCEPTABLE Neither the accompanist nor the singers have memorized the music.

Because of awkwardness, these constructions should usually be avoided.

BETTER The music has not been memorized by either the singers or the accompanist.

REVIEW EXERCISE C. *Oral Drill.* Read each of the following sentences aloud several times.

1. The *plants* in the window box *need* watering.

2. A *can* of mixed nuts *is* on the coffee table.
3. *You were* asleep.
4. *Carmen* and *Alicia are* distantly related.
5. *Reading* a book or *writing* letters *is* an enjoyable way to spend the evening.
6. *Neither* of you *believes* us.
7. *Several* of these pests *annoy* the wild deer.
8. Every *one* of you *knows* Jack.
9. Either *Leah* or *Josie has* brought the records.
10. Neither *Charlene* nor *Myron likes* ghost stories.

REVIEW EXERCISE D. Rewrite each of the following sentences (1) following the directions in parentheses and (2) changing the number of the verb to agree with the subject if necessary.

EXAMPLE 1. The teachers have finished grading the tests. (Change *The teachers* to *Each of the teachers*.)

1. *Each of the teachers has finished grading the tests.*

1. My sister is planning to work for the FBI. (Change *sister* to *sisters*.)
2. Have Camille and Roberta asked to go with us? (Change *and* to *or*.)
3. Nobody in our town intends to participate in the ceremony. (Change *Nobody* to *Many*.)
4. My grandmother, as well as my mother, hopes to see our play. (Change *grandmother* to *grandparents*.)
5. Most of the money was contributed by children in elementary school. (Change *money* to *quarters*.)
6. Neither the students nor the teacher has found the missing book. (Change *Neither the students nor the teacher* to *Neither the teacher nor the students*.)
7. The president and the vice-president have promised to address the meeting. (Change *president and the vice-president* to *secretary and treasurer*.)
8. Some of the employees spend too much time in the coffee shop. (Change *Some* to *One*.)
9. The children playing with the puppies do not want to go home. (Change *children* to *child*.)
10. Few of my questions were answered to my satisfaction. (Change *Few* to *Neither*.)

Other Problems in Agreement

5j. *Don't* and *doesn't* must agree with their subjects.

Don't and *doesn't* are contractions – two words combined into one by

7. They ___ intend to go.
8. ___ Edmund have a birthday soon?
9. ___ one of you want a piece of pie?
10. Valerie and Beth ___ like to wear hats and gloves.

5k. Collective nouns may be either singular or plural.

Collective nouns are singular in form, but they name a *group* of persons or things.

group	committee	club	family
flock	herd	swarm	public
jury	army	audience	assembly
class	team	faculty	fleet

Collective nouns are used with plural verbs when the speaker or writer is referring to the individual parts or members of the group acting separately. They are used with singular verbs when the statement refers to the group acting together as a unit.

EXAMPLES The jury was ready to announce its decision. [*Jury* is thought of as a unit.]
 The jury were arguing among themselves. [*Jury* is thought of as individuals.]

• **USAGE NOTE** Be sure that any pronoun referring to the collective noun has the same number as the noun (*its* in the first example above, *themselves* in the second).

EXERCISE 9. Select five collective nouns and write five pairs of sentences showing clearly how the nouns you choose may be either singular or plural.

EXAMPLE 1. *The class has elected its officers.*
 The class have finished their projects.

5l. A verb agrees with its subject, not its predicate nominative.

When the subject and the predicate nominative are of different numbers, you should always remember that *the verb agrees with the subject*.

STANDARD Traffic jams are one problem of commuters.

STANDARD One problem of commuters is traffic jams.

5m. When the subject follows the verb as in sentences beginning

with *there* and *here* and in questions, be careful to determine the subject and make sure that the verb agrees with it.

Each subject below agrees with its verb.

EXAMPLES Here is a letter for you.
Here u two letters for you.
There is my friend now.
There are my friends now.
Where is Edith? Where is Donald?
Where are Edith and Donald?

In conversations we frequently use contractions such as *here's*, *there's*, *where's*, *how's*, *what's*, *when's*, and the like. Since each of these includes the contracted form of *is*, do not use one of these contractions unless a singular subject follows it.

NONSTANDARD There's many old magazines in the attic.

STANDARD There are many old magazines in the attic.

STANDARD There's an attic filled with old magazines.

5n. Words stating amount are usually singular.

A word or group of words stating an amount of money, time, weight, or measurement is usually considered as one item and takes a singular verb.

EXAMPLES Thirty dollars is a high price for sneakers.
Three days was all it took.
Two thirds of the food was eaten.

Sometimes, however, the amount is thought of as individual pieces or parts. If so, a plural verb is used.

EXAMPLES Thirty of the dollars are his.
Three of the days were spent rehearsing.
Two thirds of the doughnuts were eaten.

5o. The title of a work of art, literature, or music, even when plural in form, takes a singular verb.

In the following sentences, notice that each title takes a singular verb, since it is only one work of art.

EXAMPLES Great Expectations is one of my favorite novels. [one book]
Blue Lines is an early painting by Georgia O'Keeffe. [one

work of art]

The Gondoliers was presented by the Dramatic Club and the Glee Club. [one opera]

5p. Every or many a before a subject calls for a singular verb.

EXAMPLES Every student and teacher in our school has contributed to the scholarship fund.

Many a member complained about the high annual dues.

5q. A few nouns, although plural in form, take a singular verb.

Some nouns, although they end in *s*, are considered singular in meaning. The word *news* is a common example; the singular verb is used.

The news of Louis Armstrong's death was indeed sad.

Names of certain diseases also end in *s* but are singular nouns: *measles*, *mumps*, *ricketts*.

Mumps has prevented my little sister's attendance at kindergarten.

Words ending in *-ics* are generally used with a singular verb: *athletics*, *mathematics*, *physics*, *civics*, *economics*, *politics*, *ethics*.

Physics is my most difficult subject.

REVIEW EXERCISE E. *Oral Drill.* Repeat each of the following sentences, stressing the italicized words.

1. *Jo's Boys* *is* not as well known as Louisa May Alcott's other books, but I found it surprisingly delightful.
2. His chief *worry* *is* his increasing *debts*.
3. *Many a* man, woman, and child in India *does* not have enough food.
4. Do you feel that *athletics* *is* overemphasized in your school?
5. *Where are* my *clothes*?
6. My *family* *plans* to take *its* vacation in August.
7. My *family* *plan* to take *their* vacations in August.
8. *Are there* any *objections*?
9. *Romeo and Juliet* *is* a play, a ballet, and a movie.
10. *Two weeks* *is* enough time to complete the project.

REVIEW EXERCISE F. Number your paper 1-10. Choose the correct verb in

parentheses, and write it after the appropriate number.

1. Diane, as well as Lee, (thinks, think) that women should participate more in professional sports.
2. “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” (is, are) a children's story which was made into a delightful movie by Walt Disney.
3. Fifteen pounds (is, are) a lot of weight to lose.
4. I simply cannot study when there (is, are) radios, record players, or television sets blaring.
5. Measles (is, are) common among children in the primary grades.
6. Taxes (is, are) a problem facing the governor.
7. Not one of the teachers (intends, intend) to help us with the decorations.
8. The basketball team (was, were) handicapped by injuries in its last game.
9. (Has, Have) either of them seen the sculptures by Isamu Noguchi?
10. In every detective story, there (is, are) usually a motive, suspects, clues, and discovery and punishment.

REVIEW EXERCISE G. Follow the instructions for Review Exercise F.

1. Ulysses S. Grant, along with Zachary Taylor, (was, were) probably better as a general than as a President.
2. Every student (is, are) taking the examination.
3. Her comic manner (adds, add) to the merriment.
4. The captain or a coach (lead, leads) the rally.
5. Paintings by Oscar Howe (have; has) Sioux motifs.
6. Nobody except spiteful people (rejoices, rejoice) at the misfortunes of others.
7. *Promises, Promises* (was, were) the first musical I saw.
8. When I am on the stage, neither my memory nor my voice (is, are) reliable.
9. Why (doesn't, don't) that clever girl join the club?
10. A few of us (has, have) a perfect attendance record.

AGREEMENT OF PRONOUN AND ANTECEDENT

You learned in Chapter 1 that the word to which a pronoun refers is called its *antecedent*. (For example, in the preceding sentence, *pronoun* is the antecedent

of *its*.) There should always be agreement between the pronoun and its antecedent.

5r. A pronoun agrees with its antecedent in number and gender.

A few singular personal pronouns have forms that indicate the gender of the antecedent. *He*, *his*, and *him* are used if the antecedent is masculine. *She*, *her*, and *hers* are used if the antecedent is feminine. *It* and *its* are used if the antecedent is neither masculine nor feminine.

Study the following sentences, noticing how pronouns and antecedents agree in number and gender.

EXAMPLES Marguerite showed her paintings yesterday.
Today Clarence will make his report.
My term paper has as its subject “Two Distinguished American Poets.”

When the antecedent of a personal pronoun is another kind of pronoun, it is often necessary to look in a phrase following the antecedent to determine gender.

EXAMPLES One of the girls in our group has created her own design.
Each of the men performed his duties admirably.

Sometimes the antecedent may be either masculine or feminine; sometimes it may be both. A generation ago, in standard written English, the masculine form of the personal pronoun is used to refer to such antecedents. Recently, the plural form of the personal pronoun is preferred by professional style guides.

OLD EXAMPLES A person can choose his friends but rarely his relatives.
Every one of the parents is interested in his own child.

NEW EXAMPLES Every member of the class received their instructions.
Each individual should follow their own conscience in this matter.

(1) Use a singular pronoun to refer to *each, either, neither, one, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody, someone, or somebody.*

EXAMPLES Each of the actors forgot their lines.
One of the birds built its nest there.

Notice in the sentences above that a prepositional phrase does not alter the number of the antecedent. The antecedent is singular in each sentence, and a singular pronoun (*he, she, him, her, it, or its*) must be used for agreement.

EXCEPTION Sometimes the meaning of the antecedents *everyone* and *everybody* is clearly plural. In such cases the plural pronoun should be used.

ABSURD Everyone moaned when he saw the fumble.

BETTER Everyone moaned when they saw the fumble.

(2) Two or more singular antecedents Joined by *or* or *nor* should be referred to by a singular pronoun.

EXAMPLES Neither Eugene nor Roy blamed himself.
Just then Jill or Jana cleared her throat.

• USAGE NOTE You will find that Rules (1) and (2) are often ignored in conversation; nevertheless, they should be followed in writing.

(3) Two or more antecedents joined by *and* should be referred to by a plural pronoun.

EXAMPLES Nina and Theresa acted quickly because they could see what was going to happen.
Edna and Peter have made up their own minds.

EXERCISE 10. Number your paper 1-10. First, copy the antecedents for each blank in the following sentences; then, for each blank, write a pronoun that will agree with its antecedent. Follow the rules for standard written English.

1. A person should not expect too much from — friends.
2. The bookstore sent Jack and Ray the books that --had ordered.
3. Norma or Gina will stay after school so that — can help decorate the room.
4. Several of the convicts refused to eat —food.
5. Each of the seals caught the fish that were thrown to — .
6. Both of the boys forgot — promises.
7. Everyone needs— own fountain pen.
8. Neither apologized for — blunder.
9. Each of the players looked unhappy because — had failed the coach.

10. When Susan sees someone that she knows, she always stops and talks to

— .

EXERCISE 11. Most of the following sentences contain errors in agreement of pronoun and antecedent. Number your paper 1-10. If the sentence is correct, write *C* after the corresponding number. If there is an error in agreement, write the correct form of the pronoun so that it will agree with its antecedent. Follow the rules for standard written English.

1. One of my aunts takes a great deal of pride in her furniture.
2. Knowing this, nobody in our family puts their feet on chairs or sits on beds at Aunt Mary's house.
3. One of her brothers used to think they could be an exception to the rule.
4. Uncle Charlie would often come home late at night, undress in the darkness, and then dive into his bed, nearly knocking every slat out of their place.
5. Each of these plunges left their mark on the rickety bed.
6. At first, both Aunt Mary and my mother offered their advice to Uncle Charlie and asked him to take better care of the furniture.
7. Anybody else in my family would have mended their ways, but not Uncle Charlie; he needed discipline, not advice.
8. Late one night there was a loud crash, and everyone ran out of their rooms to see what was wrong.
9. Not one of the family could believe their eyes! Lying in the middle of the floor was Uncle Charlie, groaning loudly.
10. If anybody ever asks you why Uncle Charlie suddenly reformed, tell them that one day Aunt Mary merely decided to rearrange her furniture.

REVIEW EXERCISE H. In the sentences below, if the verbs agree with their subjects and the pronouns with their antecedents, write *C* (for *correct*) after the appropriate number on your paper. If the verb does not agree with its subject, or if a pronoun does not agree with its antecedent, write the correct form of the verb or the pronoun after the proper number. Follow the rules for standard written English.

1. Nearly everybody in our crowd collect things.
2. Some of my friends collect stamps, and a few save old coins.
3. One of the girls keep locks of hair clipped from the heads of various friends.

4. Every lock in the collection are put in a small envelope and pasted in a book. 5. Ann Reeves and her two brothers have a collection of old baseball pictures, made as long ago as the 1920's. 6. It seems that almost all of my Classmates are always adding to a collection of one kind or another. 7. Each of these friends is proud of his varied assortment.

8. Jack Thompson, however, don't collect anything. 9. One of his favorite pastimes is just watching things -like lizards or birds. 10. If someone goes with Jack on a Saturday walk through the woods, Jack doesn't say much to them. 11. He is too busy watching one of the birds build their nest.

12. Not one of my friends, however, like to read about things as much as I do. 13. Instead of collecting old bottles or watching robins, I learn about things in other lands. 14. Several of my friends says I read too much *about* doing things without *doing* anything. 15. Each book~ as well as every magazine, teaches me far more than some of my friends are willing to admit. 16. For me, the habits of elephants in Africa or of kangaroos in Australia makes interesting reading.

17. In Australia there's many kinds of birds. 18. One of the most interesting birds is the kookaburra. 19. Neither Tina nor Bill knows about the kookaburra, which doesn't live in America. 20. Every one of these birds laugh. 21. It don't chirp, sing, or call as other birds do. 22. Several of them often get together on a fence, and then one of them starts cackling. 23. Quickly the others on the fence add their voices to the chorus. 24. Each bird seems to be enjoying a joke all their own. 25. Any person passing by will notice the noise, and they will soon burst out laughing, too.