Every tetrapod, including whales, <u>have pelvic</u>
                                      1
<u>bones</u> that enable animals to move the lower or
  1
rear set of limbs for locomotion or "walking."

But when was the last time you saw a whale

walking around?

The presence of these pelvic bones in whales

<u>are doubly odd</u> considering that whales lack rear
      2
limbs almost entirely. It has been hypothesized

that this skeletal structure <u>may serve</u> the purpose
                                3
of supporting the whales' reproductive anatomy,

but a different, less specialized structure would

undoubtedly function better for this purpose.

Thus, experts in the field <u>have concluded</u> that
                              4
the pelvic bones in whales – like those in snakes

and legless lizards – <u>point to</u> a common
                          5
ancestor.

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. has pelvic bones
   C. do have pelvic bones
   D. having pelvic bones

2. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. are odd
   H. is seen as odd
   J. is doubly odd

3. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. serve
   C. may serves
   D. is serving

4. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. concludes
   H. has concluded
   J. had concluded

5. Which of the following alternatives to the
   underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

   A. NO CHANGE
   B. point towards
   C. indicate
   D. signifies

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

The first thing you should know about Subject Verb Agreement problems is that they're virtually guaranteed to appear two or three times on every ACT. With that in mind, you should consider this an opportunity to quickly pick up a few points.

Quick review: every sentence must have a subject and a verb. The subject and the verb must agree.

- A *singular subject* requires a *singular verb*.

- A *plural subject* requires a *plural verb*.

- *Two singular subjects* joined by the word **_and_** require a *plural verb*.

"VERB YOUR WAY TO THE SUBJECT"

1. *Identify the verb* (action word) in the sentence and underline it.

2. *Find the subject* of the verb and underline it. To find the subject, ask who (or what) does the verb?

3. *Read the subject and verb together aloud*.
   If this sounds funny, then the subject and the verb disagree.

correct:	The **knight runs** fast.	" *knight runs*"
correct:	The **dragons run** faster**.**	" *dragons run* "
incorrect:	The **dragon catch** the knight.	" *dragon catch* "
incorrect:	The **dragons catches** the knight.	" *dragons catches* "

BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE

Use your strategy on these super easy practice problems.

1	The campfire burn brightly.	"_____ _____"	Agree / Disagree
2	The pirates yells at me.	"_____ _____"	Agree / Disagree
3	My laundry smell dirty.	"_____ _____"	Agree / Disagree
4	The panda smiles at me.	"_____ _____"	Agree / Disagree

GET RID OF THE JUNK

- Don't be afraid of long sentences. Identify the prepositional phrases and isolate the core sentence!

- DO NOT trust your ear until you've identified the prepositional phrases.

- Read only the core sentence aloud, and *then* trust your ear.

HOT TIP!

IDENTIFYING PREPOSITIONS: THE CLOUD TEST

Prepositions are words that show the relationship between two words in a sentence. If you're not sure if a word is a preposition, try using the cloud test.

LOCATION

5   The airplane flew _____beneath_____ the clouds.

6   The airplane flew _____ the clouds.

7   The airplane flew _____ the clouds.

TIME

8   The airplane flew _____after_____ the clouds.

9   The airplane flew _____ the clouds.

LOGICAL

10   The airplane flew _____despite_____ the clouds.

11   The airplane flew _____ the clouds.

FIND THE CORE SENTENCE

Subjects and verbs can **NEVER** be inside prepositional phrases.

To find the subject and verb easily, draw brackets around the prepositional phrases and skip over them when you reread the sentence.

THE COUNTABILITY EXCEPTION

If the noun in the prepositional phrase is **countable**, use a plural verb:

*Some <u>of the **bottles** are</u> on the floor.*

If the noun in the prepositional phrase is **uncountable**, use a singular verb:

*Some <u>of the **milk** is</u> on the floor.*

BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE

BONUS

Underline the prepositional phrases. Then read the core sentence aloud to see if the subject and verb agree.

12   The pudding inside the DVD players were put there by mistake. *Agree / Disagree*

13   Someone from the headquarters on Main Street wish to discuss details of the television show. *Agree / Disagree*

14   Without a thought, Anna drove past the valet and into the movie theater on Sycamore Street. *Agree / Disagree*

16   The feelings of disappointment among the archers in the courtyard was quite noticeable. *Agree / Disagree*

WATCH FOR SENTENCES WITH INFINITIVE/GERUND SWITCHES

DANGER

Infinitive = *to + verb*
to dance

Gerund = *verb + ing*
dancing

Sometimes the ACT will give you a sentence in which the infinitive form of a verb has been replaced by a gerund. These can be tricky to spot because there is no firm rule to tell you which one should be used in a given sentence. Let's look at a few examples.

Incorrect: Dave has raised $100,000 ***supporting*** cancer research.

Correct: Dave has raised $100,000 ***to support*** cancer research.

It may appear that these two sentences mean the same thing, but if you really think about it, they're slightly different. In the first one, Dave has raised the money while supporting research. In the second one, Dave has raised the money to support future research. This is a subtle difference, but it's significant.

Sometimes, switching an infinitive for a gerund can create a new error if you don't also place the correct preposition in front of the gerund. These can be super tricky to spot, so be careful.

Incorrect: The senator was praised for his prudence ***declining*** the new spending bill.

Correct: The senator was praised for his prudence ***in declining*** the new spending bill.

BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE

BONUS

Supply the correct preposition for each of the following verbs.

2.1   destined _____ win

2.2   adapt _____ changes

2.3   triumph _____ adversity

2.4   thrilled _____ the results

2.5   dream _____ peace

2.6   depend _____ someone

2.7   charged _____ a crime

2.8   relevant _____ the topic

2.9   argue _____ someone

2.10   stare _____ the sun

2.11   protect _____ disaster

2.12   based _____ the proposal

2.13   escape _____ captivity

2.14   apply _____ the job

2.15   true _____ his promise

2.16   prohibited _____ disrupting

Subject Verb Agreement

In response to those who <u>has been</u> critical of
1
the recent foreign policy announcement, I have

been asked to draft an official statement. The grim

reality is that policy objectives and common sense

regularly <u>comes into conflict</u> with one another.
2
This, however, need not be the case. Still, the high

stakes associated with nuclear war <u>creates</u> a
3
prisoners' dilemma of sorts that leaders of every

country <u>had found</u> very difficult to resist.
4

The following report <u>seeking</u> to explain the
5
Soviet and American technological developments

during the Cold War. The what, when, where, and

how <u>do not warrant</u> our attention at this time.
6
Rather, we begin by directing our attention to the

ongoing societal forces <u>that has compelled</u> humans
7

throughout history <u>making</u> scientific discoveries.
8
We then trace the effect of these forces upon

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. is being
   C. will have been
   D. have been

2. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. conflicts
   H. come into conflict
   J. has conflicted

3. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

   A. NO CHANGE
   B. have led to
   C. set up
   D. cause

4. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. find
   H. has found
   J. is finding

5. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. are seeking
   C. would seek
   D. seeks

6. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. does not warrant
   H. is not warranted
   J. has not warrant

7. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. that have compelled
   C. that compels
   D. that are compelling

8. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. to make
   H. and make
   J. in the making of

the technologies that <u>have ultimately been developed</u>.
9
Carefully analyzing specifications of fighter jets,

space capsules, and missile systems <u>is not</u> enough;
10
we must look beyond the statistics and specifications

regarding what these devices are capable of doing.

Instead, we must endeavor <u>learning why</u> each device
11
was thought necessary in the first place. In order to

do so, an honest and direct examination of the roles

of fear and paranoia must <u>have been taken</u>. Our
12
future, if we are to have one, will require an improved

understanding of the consequences that <u>results</u> from
13
decisions that are motivated by emotion rather than a

rational examination of relevant evidence. Our entire

recorded history unambiguously <u>show</u> that the time
14
has come to embrace a better method of decision-

making.

9. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

    A. NO CHANGE
    B. would have ultimately been developed
    C. would ultimately be developed
    D. were ultimately developed

10. **F.** NO CHANGE
    G. are not
    H. were not
    J. have not been

11. **A.** NO CHANGE
    B. to learning why
    C. to learn why
    D. and learn why

12. **F.** NO CHANGE
    G. been taken
    H. be taken
    J. be took

13. **A.** NO CHANGE
    B. is resulting
    C. has resulted
    D. result

14. **F.** NO CHANGE
    G. shows
    H. showing
    J. have shown

The New York City Subway <u>unveiled</u> in October
1

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
　　B. was unveiled
　　C. were unveiled
　　D. had been unveiled

of 1904. Even before that, it <u>was debuted</u> in the form
2

of a demonstration by Alfred Ely Beach in 1869. The

2. **F.** NO CHANGE
　　G. debuted
　　H. had debuted
　　J. has debuted

Beach Pneumatic Transit, as he called it, only <u>had ran</u>
3

a distance of 312 feet under Broadway in Lower

Manhattan. His plans called for a citywide pneumatic

powered system, but his vision <u>never came to be.</u>
4

3. **A.** NO CHANGE
　　B. would run
　　C. would have run
　　D. ran

4. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

　　F. NO CHANGE
　　G. never had got realized.
　　H. never became reality.
　　J. was never realized.

Still, Beach's demonstration lit a spark that <u>had</u>
5
<u>persisted</u> ever since. Today, a network of lines
5

5. **A.** NO CHANGE
　　B. will persist
　　C. has persisted
　　D. would have persisted

<u>allow passengers to traverse</u> all parts of the city with
6

6. **F.** NO CHANGE
　　G. allowing passengers to traverse
　　H. allows passengers to traverse
　　J. allows passenegers traversing

relative ease compared to the difficulty <u>having been</u>
7
<u>endured</u> by passengers in other major metropolitan areas.
7

7. **A.** NO CHANGE
　　B. enduring
　　C. endures
　　D. endured

During the 1970s and 1980s the subway <u>would fall</u>
8

out of favor, covered with graffiti and plagued by

violance. Much needed changes were made, and in the

8. **F.** NO CHANGE
　　G. fell
　　H. falls
　　J. was falling

time since then, the underground transit system is
                                                    9
every bit as iconic as the famed "I heart NY" shirts.

It is only fitting that these dutiful subway cars have

a retirement plan for after they are took out of service.
                                      10
Once decommissioned, each car is stripped down to its

frame, completely disinfected, and then it will be
                                            11
shipped down the coast and dropped into the ocean
   11

to be forming the "Red Bird Reef." This artifical
   12
reef covers almost 2 square miles of ocean floor,

creating a much-needed habitat for a number of
   13
endangered marine species.

As a result of these conservation efforts, many

marine species that had been diminishing have began
                                            14
to repopulate the area. Many coastal cities around the

United States and the world have signed up to

participate in similar programs; thus The New York

City Subway served as a symbol of both the past
                  15
and the future.

9. A. NO CHANGE
    B. becomes
    C. would have become
    D. has become

10. F. NO CHANGE
    G. were took
    H. were taken
    J. are taken

11. A. NO CHANGE
    B. then gets shipped
    C. they are shipped
    D. then shipped

12. F. NO CHANGE
    G. to form
    H. for forming
    J. in forming

13. A. NO CHANGE
    B. to create
    C. creates
    D. created

14. F. NO CHANGE
    G. will begin
    H. has begun
    J. have begun

15. A. NO CHANGE
    B. had served
    C. serves
    D. will serve

70

GET TO KNOW YOUR TENSES

The **present tense** is used to indicate that an action is occurring now (or the events of a story).

> Mario **sits** in detention.

The **present progressive** is used to emphasize that an action is happening *right now*.

> The children in detention **are missing** the ice cream party.
>
> **is/are + (-ing)**

The **present perfect** is used for actions that began in the past and are still continuing in the present or during a time period that hasn't completed or when the time frame is not specified.

*Mario **has missed** many ice cream parties in the past. Mario **has missed** four ice cream parties this year.*

has/have + past participle   **has/have + past participle**

The **simple past** is used for actions that began and ended in the past.

> Mario **disrespected** his teacher.
>
> **(-ed)** for regular verbs

The **past perfect** is used to help establish the order of two events that began and ended in the past.

> By the time Mario <u>was released</u>, all the ice cream **had melted**.
>
> **had + past participle**

The **past participle** can be used to modify actions in the past, present, or future.

> **Sobbing** uncontrollably, <u>Mario was</u> inconsolable.
> **Laughing** maniacly, <u>Mario plots</u> his revenge.
> **Smiling** menacingly, <u>Mario will make</u> the biggest ice cream sunday that anyone has ever seen!

HOT TIP!

WATCH FOR UNNECESSARY TENSE SWITCHES

- The vast majority of questions dealing with tense errors test whether you can spot an unnecessary tense switch. Follow this one simple rule, and you'll do just fine:

  Unless the context of the sentence establishes a <u>clear</u> reason to change tense, an underlined verb should match the tense established by other verb(s) in the sentence or paragraph.

- Make sure the tense of the <u>underlined</u> portion agrees with the part of the sentence or paragraph that you cannot change.

- Use the answer choices to find out what's being tested on the problem.

  If the answer choices include single and plural verbs, then you're probably being asked to identify and resolve a **subject verb disagreement**.

  If the answer choices do NOT include both single and plural choices, then you're probably being asked to eliminate a tense error, such as a **tense switch**.

DANGER

THE MOST COMMON TENSE ERRORS ON THE ACT

1. Past participle used in place of simple past tense

The simple past tense can stand alone, but the past participle can <u>only</u> be used after a form of *to have* or *to be*.

> ***Wrong***: Yesterday, Bart ***eaten*** dinner.
> ***Right:*** Bart ***ate*** dinner.

2. Past participle used without "*to have*" or "*to be*"

The sentence requires the past participle but omits the helping verb before it. This is sometimes called a "helpless past participle" because it lacks a helping verb.

> ***Wrong***: *Since last week, Charles **flown** to New York and back.*
> ***Right:*** *Since last week, Charles **has flown** to New York and back*

3. Simple past replaces past participle

Verbs in the simple past tense can stand alone. They don't require a helping verb, such as *to have* or *to be.*

> ***Wrong***: *As a child, **has went** to the amusement park every summer.*
> ***Right:*** *As a child, **I went** to the amusement park every summer.*

4. Past participle without "-*ed*"

This is a pretty clear error. You've got a regular verb in the past participle tense without an -*ed.*

> ***Wrong***: The children ***were invite*** to the soccer tournament.
> ***Right:*** The children ***were invited*** to the soccer tournament.

HOT TIP!

BE VERY SKEPTICAL OF ANSWERS THAT USE THE PHRASE "*WOULD HAVE*" OR "*WILL HAVE*"

Answer choices that include the phrases "*would have*" or "*will have*" are nearly always wrong because they tend to create awkward, wordy sentences and introduce tense switch errors.

Used properly, "*would*" has the opposite effect of the word "*had*" in establishing the order of events in the timeline of a sentence.

> *As the director **finished** his film, he **knew** it **would win** an award.*

> *Though Nate **would regret** the decision, he **devoured** his dessert in record time.*

The word *"having"* is similar to "*had*" but acts as a modifier, not a verb.

> ***Having arrived*** *at the airport, Danielle **checked** her duffle bag.*

> ***Having acknowledged*** *the mistake, Michael **offered** the man a refund.*

REGULAR VERBS

Regular verbs follow the basic rule: add an –ed ending to convert a verb to the past tense form.   Regular verbs like *jump* are the same in the past tense and past participle forms.

Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
taste	*tasted*	*(have) tasted*
shout	*shouted*	*(have) shouted*
laugh	*laughed*	*(have) laughed*

DANGER ▮ IRREGULAR VERBS

Irregular verbs are tricky. They do not follow the basic "*add an -ed*" rule. Be careful when dealing with irregular verbs.

Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
fly	*flew*	*(have) flown*
give	*gave*	*(have) given*
cut	*cut*	*(have) cut*

SKILLS PRACTICE

Circle the correct verb phrase.

2.1   I'm pretty sick of lasagna; we (*had ate/have eaten*) it every night this week.

2.2   If not for the final exam, Paul and Todd (*would have done/would have did*) better in our chemistry class.

2.3   In the novel I'm reading, the protagonist (*goes/had gone*) to question the suspect about the crime.

2.4   Darkness had already (*fallen/fell*) by the time it began to rain.

COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS

<u>Present</u>	<u>Simple Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
be	*was/were*	*(have)* _____
become	_____	*(have) become*
begin	*began*	*(have)* _____
bring	_____	*(have) brought*
buy	*bought*	*(have)* _____
come	*came*	*(have)* _____
do	_____	*(have)* _____
drink	_____	*(have) drunk*
eat	*ate*	*(have)* _____
fall	*fell*	*(have)* _____
feel	_____	*(have)* _____
fight	_____	*(have) fought*
forget	*forgot*	*(have) forgotten*
give	*gave*	*(have)* _____
go	*went*	*(have) gone*
have	_____	*(have)* _____
know	*knew*	*(have) known*
make	*made*	*(have)* _____
put	_____	*(have) put*
say	*said*	*(have)* _____
show	_____	*(have)* _____
sing	*sang*	*(have)* _____
sleep	_____	*(have) slept*
speak	*spoke*	*(have)* _____
swim	_____	*(have) swum*
take	*took*	*(have)* _____
teach	_____	*(have) taught*
think	_____	*(have)* _____
wake	*woke*	*(have)* _____
write	*wrote*	*(have)* _____

REMEMBER

- Watch out for irregular verbs. They do NOT follow the standard rules of verb conjugation.

- Irregular verbs have two different forms for simple past tense and past participle.

- Only use helping verbs like *had* or *have* when you're using the past participle form of the verb.

As Josh arrived at the airport he realized he

has forgotten his backpack, which would contain
　　1　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　2

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. had forgotten
   C. had forgot
   D. forgot

2. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. which was containing
   H. and it contained
   J. which contained

his boarding pass and passport. This is presenting
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　3
a problem if he were to attempt to pass the security

3. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. would present
   C. presents
   D. will have presented

screening without those documents. Josh anticipates
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　4

4. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. anticipated
   H. will anticipate
   J. had anticipated

that he will have just enough time retrieving them
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　5
from home and still make his flight.

5. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. to retrieving
   C. in which to retrieve
   D. to retrieve

We all do better when we cooperated. This
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　6

6. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. have cooperated
   H. cooperate
   J. will cooperate

has been a motto in my home since I was a little
　7
girl. In fact, it is something that my grandmother

7. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. had been
   C. was
   D. is

used to say. It may sound trite, but I still believe
　8
those words with all my heart. Someday, when I

8. **F.** NO CHANGE
   G. had used to say
   H. sayed
   J. had said

have children of my own, I <u>would tell</u> them those
                              9
same words. I hope that they will live by them as

I <u>had.</u>
   10

9. **A.** NO CHANGE
   B. will tell
   C. will have told
   D. tell

10. **F.** NO CHANGE
    G. have.
    H. did.
    J. will.