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| **EXERCISES for Chapter 17** |

1. For each of the following phrases, change the noun indicating possession from the singular to the plural. For example:  
      the man's experiences  
      the men's experiences  
  
      the doctor's office  
      the doctors' office  
  
1. the musician's instruments  
2. the child's adventures  
3. the animal's habitat  
4. the workman's instructions  
5. the ship's passengers  
6. the pilot's vacation  
7. the officer's friends  
[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a1)   
  
2. For each of the following phrases, change the noun indicating possession from the plural to the singular. For example:  
      the owners' permission  
      the owner's permission  
  
      the mice's nest  
      the mouse's nest  
  
1. the surgeons' skill  
2. the policemen's warning  
3. the directors' decision  
4. the secretaries' correspondence  
5. the eagles' aerie  
6. the women's errand  
7. the managers' assistants  
[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a2)   
  
3. Show the relationships between the possessors and the things possessed by using the ending **'s** or the word **of**, as appropriate. For example:

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|  | **Possessor** | **Thing Possessed** | **Indicating Possession** |
|  | visitor | map | the visitor's map |
|  | stairs | top | the top of the stairs |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1. | woman | scarf |  |
| 2. | children | answers |  |
| 3. | door | color |  |
| 4. | concert | beginning |  |
| 5. | instructor | advice |  |
| 6. | deficit | size |  |
| 7. | girl | tricycle |  |
| 8. | building | height |  |
| 9. | hen | cackling |  |
| 10. | boy | parents |  |
| 11. | chair | arm |  |
| 12. | street | length |  |

[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a3)   
  
4. For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with either the singular or the plural verb form shown in brackets. Be prepared to explain why the form you have chosen is correct. For example:  
  
      The committee \_\_\_\_ put forward a new proposal. (has, have)  
      The committee has put forward a new proposal.  
In this example the committee is acting as a whole. Therefore a singular verb is used.  
  
      The committee \_\_\_\_ disagreed on what policy to adopt. (has, have)  
      The committee have disagreed on what policy to adopt.  
In this example, the members of the committee are acting as individuals. Therefore a plural verb is used.  
  
      Two tons of coal \_\_ required. (is, are)  
      Two tons of coal is required.  
In this example, the amount **two tons** is considered as a whole. Therefore a singular verb is used.  
  
1. The crew \_\_\_\_\_\_ preparing the ship to go to sea. (is, are)  
2. The crew \_\_\_\_\_\_ different levels of experience. (has, have)  
3. Two pounds of butter \_\_\_\_\_ too much. (is, are)  
4. The class \_\_\_\_\_ not agree on what should be done. (does, do)  
5. The class \_\_\_\_\_ contributed eighty dollars to the cause. (has, have)  
6. Three ounces of gold \_\_\_\_\_ worth more than three ounces of copper. (is, are)  
7. The group \_\_\_\_\_ decided to hold a meeting once a month. (has, have)  
8. The group \_\_\_\_\_ varied backgrounds. (has, have)  
9. Fifty cents \_\_\_\_\_ the regular price. (was, were)  
10. Six dollars \_\_\_\_\_ been collected. (has, have)  
[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a4)   
  
5. For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with either the singular or the plural verb form shown in brackets. Be prepared to explain why the form you have chosen is correct. For example:  
  
      Both the sky and the water \_\_\_ blue. (is, are)  
      Both the sky and the water are blue.  
The two nouns of a compound subject with **and** refer to two different things. Therefore a plural verb is used.  
  
      Wilson and Brothers \_\_ a company dealing in antiques. (is, are)  
      Wilson and Brothers is a company dealing in antiques.  
The two nouns of a compound subject with **and** refer to one thing. Therefore a singular verb is used.  
  
      Either Richard or his uncle \_\_ sure to be there. (is, are)  
      Either Richard or his uncle is sure to be there.  
A singular noun is nearest the verb in a compound subject with **or**. Therefore a singular verb is used.  
  
      Neither the main office nor the branch offices \_\_\_ open. (is, are)  
      Neither the main office nor the branch offices are open.  
A plural noun is nearest the verb in a compound subject with **nor**. Therefore a plural verb is used.  
  
1. Either a large jar or two small jars \_\_\_\_\_ required. (is, are)  
2. Neither the road nor the highway \_\_\_\_\_\_ to Pictou. (leads, lead)  
3. A duck and a heron \_\_\_\_\_ in the pond. (is, are)  
4. Either spring or summer \_\_\_\_\_ a good time to visit our region. (is, are)  
5. Both the bow and the arrows \_\_\_\_\_\_ to the instructor. (belongs, belong)  
6. Neither the boats nor the raft \_\_\_\_\_ in good repair. (was, were)  
7. Milk and porridge \_\_\_\_\_ a nutritious breakfast. (is, are)  
8. Either his brother or his sister \_\_\_\_\_\_ here. (lives, live)  
9. Both boys and girls \_\_\_\_\_ eligible to apply. (is, are)  
10. Neither threats nor persuasion \_\_\_\_\_ proved effective. (has, have)  
11. Bread and potatoes \_\_\_\_\_ staple foods in many parts of North America. (is, are)  
12. Either the twins or their friend \_\_\_\_\_ in the class. (is, are)  
13. The Picts and the Martyrs \_\_\_\_\_ a book I would like to read again. (is, are)  
14. Both feathers and fur \_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep animals warm. (helps, help)  
15. Rope or string \_\_\_\_\_ required. (is, are)  
16. Either plates or saucers \_\_\_\_\_ suitable. (is, are)  
17. Smith and Smith \_\_\_\_\_ a family business. (is, are)  
18. Neither the apples nor the plums \_\_\_\_\_ ripe. (was, were)  
[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a5)   
  
6. For each of the following sentences, place brackets around the phrase which describes the noun subject. Then, using the Simple Present tense, fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb shown in brackets. For example:  
      The tools, including the hammer, \_\_\_ made of iron. (to be)  
      The tools, [including the hammer,] are made of iron.  
  
      The ferry, as well as the other boats, \_\_\_ at anchor. (to be)  
      The ferry, [as well as the other boats,] is at anchor.  
  
1. The letter, as well as the postcards, \_\_\_\_\_ on the table. (to be)  
2. The windows at the front of the house \_\_\_\_\_ to be repaired. (to need)  
3. His friends, as well as his sister, \_\_\_\_\_ about to leave. (to be)  
4. The meadow, filled with flowers, \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful sight. (to be)  
5. The children in the class \_\_\_\_\_ eager to learn. (to be)  
6. The kettle, in contrast to the saucepans, \_\_\_\_\_ pitch black. (to be)  
7. The books, although purchased only last year, already \_\_\_\_\_ worn. (to look)  
8. The leader of the musicians \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for the arrangements. (to be)  
9. The table, together with the chairs, \_\_\_\_\_ quite old. (to be)  
10. The members of the club \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attending the meetings. (to enjoy)  
[Answers](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#a6)

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| **ANSWERS TO THE EXERCISES for Chapter 17** |

Answers to [Exercise 1](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#1):  
1. the musicians' instruments 2. the children's adventures 3. the animals' habitat 4. the workmen's instructions 5. the ships' passengers 6. the pilots' vacation 7. the officers' friends  
  
Answers to [Exercise 2](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#2):  
1. the surgeon's skill 2. the policeman's warning 3. the director's decision 4. the secretary's correspondence 5. the eagle's aerie 6. the woman's errand 7. the manager's assistants  
  
Answers to [Exercise 3](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#3):  
1. the woman's scarf 2. the children's answers 3. the color of the door 4. the beginning of the concert 5. the instructor's advice 6. the size of the deficit 7. the girl's tricycle 8. the height of the building 9. the hen's cackling 10. the boy's parents 11. the arm of the chair 12. the length of the street  
  
Answers to [Exercise 4](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#4):  
1. is [acting as a whole] 2. have [considered individually] 3. is [considered as a whole] 4. do [acting individually] 5. has [acting as a whole] 6. is [considered as a whole] 7. has [acting as a whole] 8. have [considered individually] 9. was [considered as a whole] 10. has [considered as a whole]  
  
Answers to [Exercise 5](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#5):  
1. are [**or**: noun nearest the verb is plural] 2. leads [**nor**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 3. are [**and**: subject refers to more than one thing] 4. is [**or**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 5. belong [**and**: subject refers to more than one thing] 6. was [**nor**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 7. is [**and**: subject refers to a single type of breakfast] 8. lives [**or**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 9. are [**and**: subject refers to more than one thing] 10. has [**or**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 11. are [**and**: subject refers to more than one thing] 12. is [**or**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 13. is [**and**: title of a book] 14. help [**and**: subject refers to more than one thing] 15. is [**or**: noun nearest the verb is singular] 16. are [**or**: noun nearest the verb is plural] 17. is [**and**: name of a company] 18. were [**nor**: noun nearest the verb is plural]  
  
Answers to [Exercise 6](http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/durrus/153/gramex17.html#6):  
1. The letter, [as well as the postcards,] is on the table. 2. The windows [at the front of the house] need to be repaired. 3. His friends, [as well as his sister,] are about to leave. 4. The meadow, [filled with flowers,] is a beautiful sight. 5. The children [in the class] are eager to learn. 6. The kettle, [in contrast to the saucepans] is pitch black. 7. The books, [although purchased only last year] already look worn. 8. The leader [of the musicians] is responsible for the arrangements. 9. The table, [together with the chairs,] is quite old. 10. The members [of the club] enjoy attending the meetings.