

SINGULAR AND PLURAL SUBJECTS.

In determining the proper form for a verb, much depends upon the number of its subject. It is important, therefore, to know certainly whether a subject is singular or plural. One must often look beyond the mere form of a word to the character of the thought expressed by it.

Illustrations:—

1. A *portion* of the wheat was saved.

2. Nine *tenths* of the soil is bad.

NOTE.—Here the subject is a partitive word followed by *of* and a noun or pronoun singular in meaning, and the verb is singular.

3. A *number* of the boys were disobedient.

4. *One third* of the words are misspelled.

5. A *half* of my pupils were ill.

NOTE.—Each partitive word in these sentences is followed by *of* and a plural noun. The verb in such sentences should be plural.

6. *William*, as well as others, were present.

7. *The King*, with all his hosts, has come.

NOTE.—The number of a subject is not changed by joining it to another noun by means of *with*, *like*, *but*, *as well as*, etc.

8. I, and not they, am to blame.

9. Not they, but I, am guilty.

NOTE.—When there are two subjects, and one of them is preceded by a negative word, the other determines the form of the verb.

10. A great *rarity* of plants grow in this latitude.

In determining the number of a relative pronoun, look at its antecedent, and be careful not to mistake an apparent antecedent for the true one.

SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

1. Name the present Governor-General of Canada.

2. Name the present Prime Minister of Great Britain.

3. Who wrote (1) "Jane Eyre," (2) "The Heathen Chinee," (3) "Barriers Burned Away?"

4. Name in order the Presidents of the United States since 1870.

5. Name two noted American statesmen who have died since 1880.

6. Name in correct order the ten largest cities of the world.

7. What great poets are living at present?

8. Name four noted American humorists.

9. Where is the Yosemite valley, and for what is it noted?

10. In what year and in what month was the great Chicago fire?

11. Name the three greatest inventions since 1870.

12. When was the art of printing invented, and by whom?

13. Name two poems in each of the following languages, and give their authors:—

(1) German.

(2) English.

(3) Latin.

(4) Greek.

14. Name three kings of England who were authors?

15. What noted French author died during 1885?

16. Name two noted poets who were brothers-in-law.

17. Name the colors of the rainbow.

18. Name the authors of (1) "Robinson Crusoe," (2) "Gulliver's Travels," (3) "John Halifax, Gentleman."

19. Give the real names of the following noted authors:—

(1) Mark Twain.

(2) A. L. O. E.

(3) Boz.

(4) Josh Billings.

(5) Ouida.

20. Who invented (1) the steam engine, (2) the railway engine?

NOTE.—The answers to any of the foregoing questions will be given if asked for. Twenty similar questions will appear in every number of the SUPPLEMENT.

THE WEIGHT OF COAL.

WHEN broken for the market a cubic foot of anthracite coal will weigh about 54 pounds, and of bituminous coal about 50 pounds. To estimate the weight of coal in any given space, multiply the contents in cubic feet by 54 or 50 respectively, and the product will be the weight in pounds.

EXERCISES.

1. How many tons of anthracite coal can be stored in a bin 50 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 5 feet deep?

2. How many pounds of bituminous coal in a car 30 feet long and 7 feet wide, the depth of the coal being 18 inches?

3. How many pounds of anthracite coal can be placed in a cart which measures 6 feet in length, 4½ feet in width, and 3 feet 6 inches deep?

4. A dealer purchases 1,500 tons of anthracite coal, 2,240 pounds to the ton, which he wishes to store in an inclosure 100 feet long and 50 feet wide. What will be the depth of the coal?