



# GRAMMAR NINJA

## TRICKY SUBJECTS

→ Directions: In the following sentences, underline *all* subjects once, and choose the correct verb.



**NINJA SAYS:** Sometimes a prepositional phrase will come right after a subject, describing the subject like an adjective. Most of the time you need to ignore the prepositional phrase to make the subject agree with the verb.

- Maslow's theory of higher needs \_\_\_\_\_ (doesn't, don't) apply to ninjas. They only have two needs: Find people to destroy, and destroy them.
- The credit cards of a ninja \_\_\_\_\_ (has, have) no limit. Every weekend, he maxes them out.
- Aliens on Earth \_\_\_\_\_ (does, do) actually exist. They just know to stay away from planets with ninjas.



**NINJA SAYS:** Some pronouns are always singular and must get a singular verb, even if there's a prepositional phrase that has a plural noun in it.

<i>everybody</i>	<i>anybody</i>	<i>everyone</i>	<i>no one</i>	<i>everything</i>	<i>anything</i>	<i>another</i>	<i>either</i>	<i>each</i>
<i>somebody</i>	<i>nobody</i>	<i>someone</i>	<i>one</i>	<i>something</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>neither</i>	<i>much</i>
		<i>anyone</i>						<i>little</i>

- Someone from the cities \_\_\_\_\_ (says, say) ninjas aren't scary. Historians agree: worst mistake ever.
- Everything under King Midas's touch \_\_\_\_\_ (turns, turn) to gold. Anything under a ninja's touch \_\_\_\_\_ (turns, turn) up dead. Each of the things touched by ninjas \_\_\_\_\_ (is, are) wiped from the space-time continuum.
- One of the famous ninjas \_\_\_\_\_ (holds, hold) every weightlifting record . . . at the same time.



**NINJA SAYS:** Some pronouns are always plural and must get a plural verb, even if there's a prepositional phrase that has a singular noun in it.

<i>both</i>	<i>few</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>others</i>	<i>several</i>
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- Many from that fancy school \_\_\_\_\_ (thinks, think) curiosity killed the cat. This is not true. Ninjas killed cats, every single one of them.
- Several from the ninja guild \_\_\_\_\_ (participate, participates) in the Running of the Bulls; they walk.
- Both of those ninjas \_\_\_\_\_ (is, are) good enough to get blackjack with just one card.



**NINJA SAYS:** Some really tricky pronouns can be singular or plural. This is the only time to look at the noun inside the prepositional phrase and match the verb to it. Exceptions to the rule!

<i>all</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>most</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>none</i>
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- Most of the normal people \_\_\_\_\_ (asks, ask) for a tissue when they sneeze. Ninjas get a body bag.
- Scientists agree that after nuclear war, all of the survivors \_\_\_\_\_ (is, are) cockroaches and ninjas.
- If any of their skis ever \_\_\_\_\_ (needs, need) wax, ninjas slick them up with dreams of their victims.