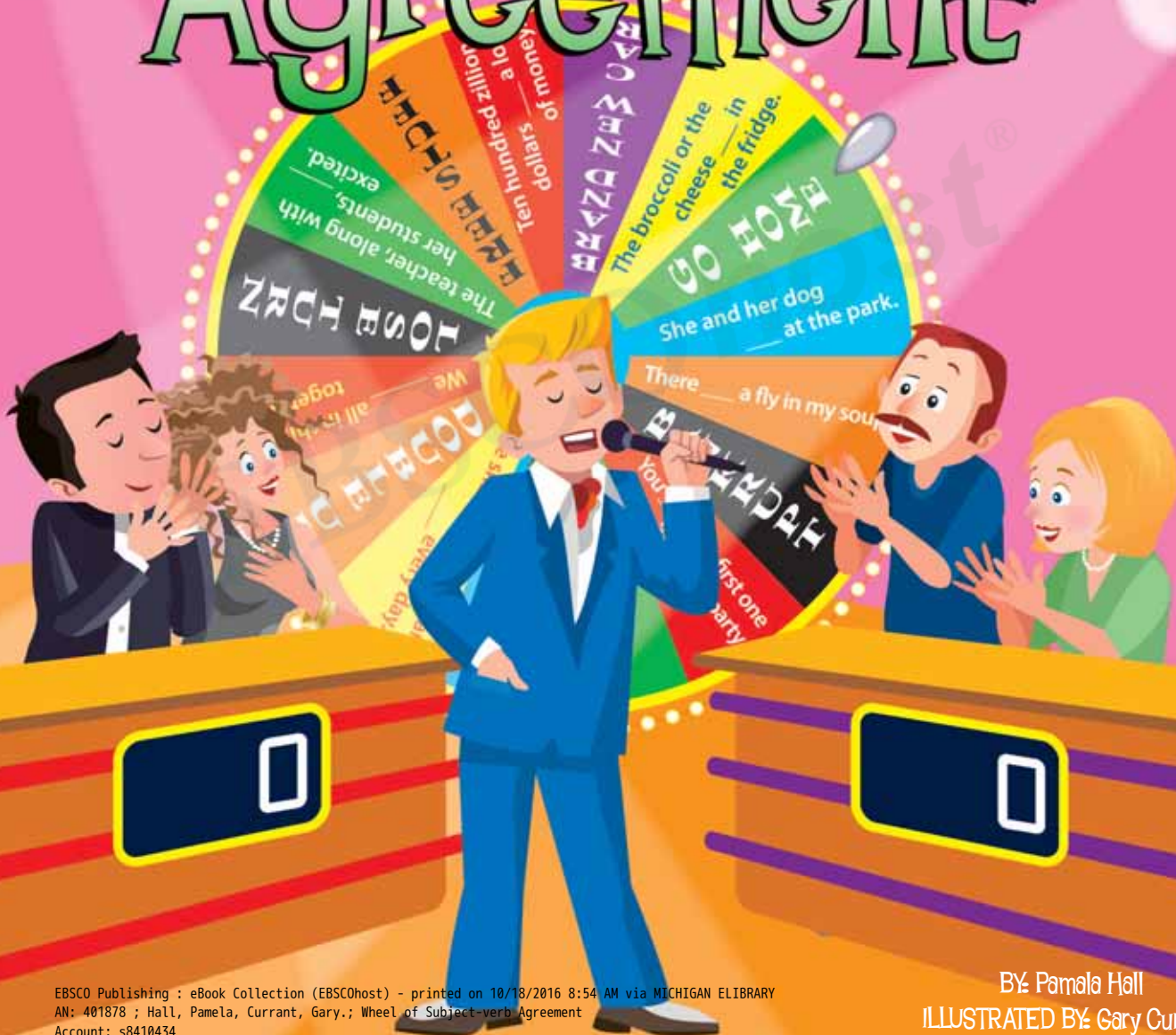


GRAMMAR'S SLAMMIN'

Wheel of Subject-Verb Agreement



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GRAMMAR'S SLAMMIN' Wheel of Subject-Verb Agreement



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"Welcome to *The Big Wheel of Grammar!*" game show host, Matt Payback, began. "Our teams today are the Upstarts and the Smarts. The Smarts won the toss, so they choose our grammar category."




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"We'll take Subject-Verb Agreement," Sam Smart said.

"Great! Before we begin, let me remind you that each correct answer will give you 100 points," Matt said. "Now, my lovely assistant, Hannah Blight, will give you a hint for this category."





Singular means just one.
Singular verbs often end in s.
Plural means more than one.
Match up singular subjects to
singular verbs and plural
subjects to plural verbs to win!





“Wait!” screeched Barb Upstart. “That’s not enough. Please define *subject* and *verb*.”

“A subject is the person, the place, or the thing that performs the action in a sentence. It usually comes first. The verb is the action word. It includes the words *is*, *are*, *was*, or *were*.”

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The b

GO FLY

She and her dog
_____ at the park.

There _____ a fly in my soup.

BAZZ



"Are we ready now?" asked Matt. "The wheel has landed on the first puzzle. Think hard, Smarts. Are we looking for *is* or *are* to fill that blank space?"

"The answer is *are*!" hollered Sam. "She and her dog *are* at the park!"

"You're right!" beamed Matt. "The word *and* combines the two singular subjects to create a plural subject. That plural subject needs a plural verb. Give 100 points to the Smarts!"

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BRAZDA

The broccoli or the
cheese ___ in
the fridge.

GO

her do

"Now, here's one for the Upstarts," Matt continued. "The missing word is either *stink* or *stinks*. Think hard, Upstarts."

Barb cried, "I've got it! The broccoli or the cheese *stink* in the fridge. Broccoli and cheese are two things, so it needs a plural verb!"





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"I'm sorry, Barb," moaned Matt. "That is incorrect. When two or more singular items are connected by *or*, the verb needed is singular, not plural. Singular verbs often end in *s*. So, the correct answer is *stinks*."



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You ___ the
to arrive at t

My pants ___ too srr

HOSE TOO

The snake or both lizards
every day.

DOUBLE UP

We ___ all in this
together!

DOUBLE UP

CRZY

fly in my sou

her dog
at the pa

HOSE

cheese
coll or the

"Moving on," Matt said. "Smarts, is it *hiss* or *hisses*?"
Sam beamed then answered, "It's *hiss*."

"Absolutely!" cried Matt. "We tried to trick you with both a singular and a plural subject and *or*. But you knew that the one closest to the verb wins! The plural *lizards* is paired with the plural *hiss*. Another 100 points to the Smarts."



"If you switch it around," added Sam, "it would be: The lizards or the snake *hisses* every day."

"You're a genius, Sam Smart!" Matt cheered. Barb sighed as Matt opened the note Chuck Upstart threw at the Smarts.





Smarts
Go Back,
Upstarts Lead
the Pack.

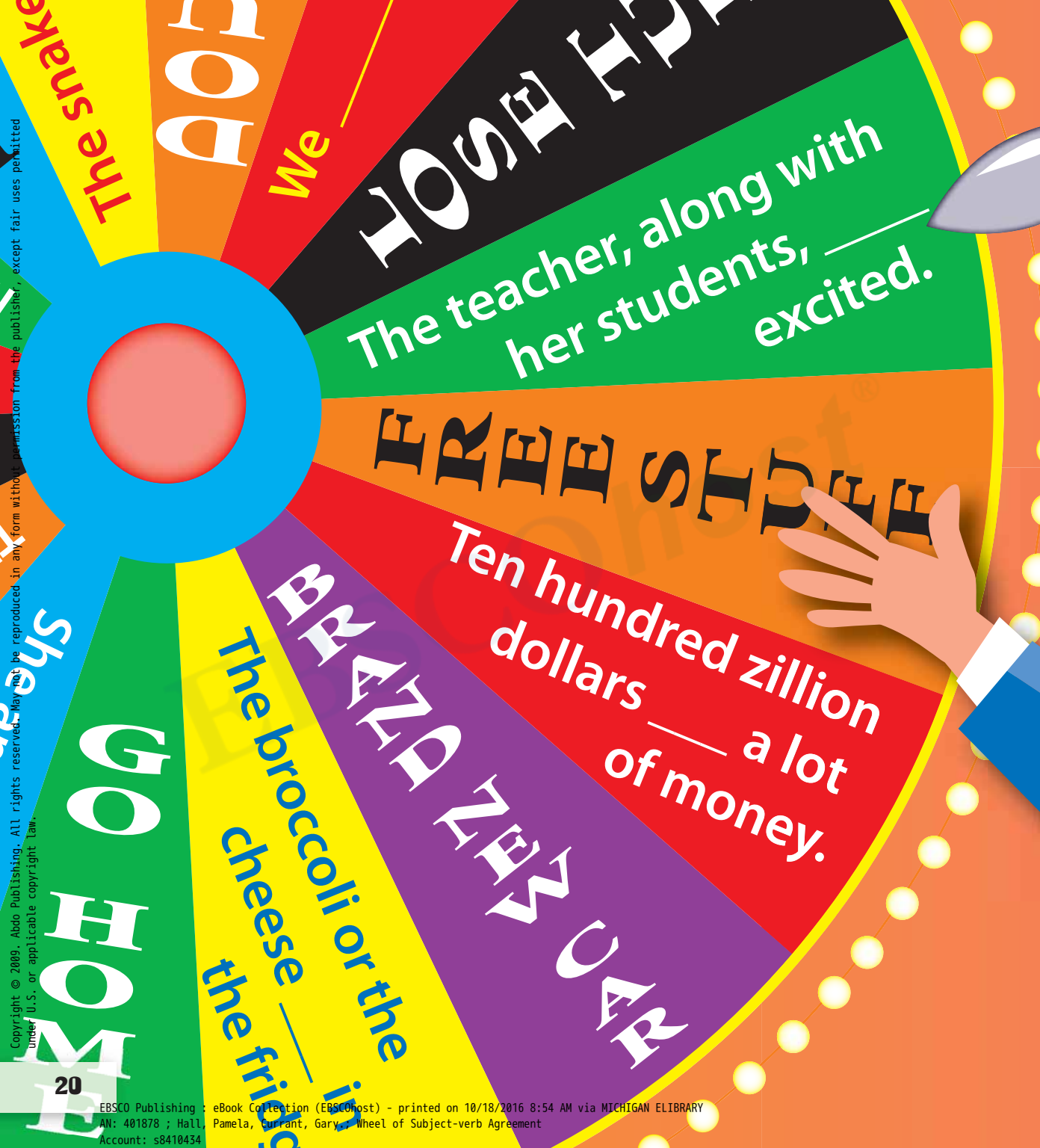
"We've spun again. I'm sorry, Upstarts, you've landed on Lose Turn," sighed Matt. "Smarts, what is a collective noun?"



Sal sang out, "It's a word that sounds plural but is just one thing. *Group, team, class, and family* are collective nouns!"
"That's correct! The Smart group is in the lead," announced Matt.



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The snake

BOB

We

JOSE

The teacher, along with her students, _____ excited.

FREE STUFF

Ten hundred zillion dollars _____ a lot of money.

BRAND NEW CAR

The broccoli or the cheese _____ the fridge _____

GO FOR IT

"Okay, Upstarts, complete this sentence using *was* or *were*," Matt said.

"It would be *were*, because *students* is plural," guessed Barb.

"I'm sorry, Upstarts. I was looking for *was*," groaned Matt. "The subject here is *teacher*. Remember, the subject and the verb must agree. Don't be confused when a phrase comes between them."





anybody
each
either
everyone
nobody
someone

anyone
each one
neither
everybody
somebody
no one

"We're nearly out of time," Matt announced.
"Smarts, it's your turn. Please look to the lovely Hannah Blight and tell me what those words have in common."

"Are they singular and agree with a singular verb?" Sal breathed.



“Yes!” cried Matt. **“One example could be: Each of these apples is crunchy. We are talking about more than one apple, but we’re looking at each one in the group separately. So, a singular verb is needed. It looks like the Smarts are about to win!”**





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HOST

The teacher, all
her student
ex

EVERYWHERE

Ten hundred zillion
dollars — a lot
of money.

BRAZAZAZOAR

The broccoli or the
cheese — in
the fridge.

GO HOME

She and her dog
— at the

"Smarts, you have 400 points and the Upstarts have none. Just fill in the last puzzle and the prize is yours!"

"That would be *is!*" shouted Sam.

"Perfect score!" sang Matt. "The word *dollars* may sound plural, but it is a single unit that is grouped together."



"Team Smart, you are the winner of *The Big Wheel of Grammar!*"

"Shouldn't that be 'You is the winner'?" asked Barb.

"You is an exception, Barb! It is always matched with a plural verb," Matt stated.



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“How will you spend your winnings, Smarts?” Matt shouted over the excitement.

“We’d like to help everyone learn grammar,” said Sam. “And, we are starting with the Upstarts. Sal and I are signing them up for grammar lessons!”





More About Subject-Verb Agreement

In every complete sentence there is a subject and a verb. These subjects and verbs need to agree to be grammatically correct. Singular verbs often end in *s* and are matched with singular subjects.

Sometimes subjects can be tricky! When two singular subjects are combined by the word *and*, they create a plural subject. That plural subject needs a plural verb. But if they are connected by *or*, they remain singular. The verb matches the subject closest to it.

Be sure to identify your subject when deciding which verb to use. Don't be fooled by phrases between the subject and the verb. And remember that collective nouns look like a group, but refer to a singular subject!

Web Sites

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