

1. Neither the pizza box nor the soda cans \_\_\_\_ under the couch.

- A) is
- B) are
- C) was
- D) has been

2. My collection of rare, unopened ketchup packets \_\_\_\_ in a locked safe.

- A) are
- B) is
- C) were
- D) have been

3. The football team \_\_\_\_ celebrating like they won the Super Bowl, even though it's only halftime.

- A) is
- B) are
- C) was
- D) has

4. Each of my three cats \_\_\_\_ to sit directly on my laptop when I'm working.

- A) try
- B) tries
- C) have tried
- D) were trying

5. The pile of dirty socks \_\_\_\_ an ecosystem of its own.

- A) are
- B) is
- C) were
- D) have been

6. Neither the teacher nor the students \_\_\_\_ ready for Monday morning.

- A) is



- B) are
- C) was
- D) has

**7.** The scissors \_\_\_\_ missing again, which is suspicious because I live alone.

- A) is
- B) are
- C) was
- D) has been

**8.** The news about aliens landing in Ohio \_\_\_\_ everyone on edge.

- A) are
- B) is
- C) were
- D) have been

**9.** Ten dollars \_\_\_\_ enough to buy gas these days? Ha! That's funny.

- A) is
- B) are
- C) were
- D) have been

**10.** The band \_\_\_\_ tuning their instruments, but half of them are also arguing about pizza toppings.

- A) is
- B) are
- C) was
- D) were



**Answer Key + Explanations**

1. Neither the pizza box nor the soda cans \_\_\_\_ under the couch.

- A) is
- B) are ☒
- C) was
- D) has been

Explanation: With “neither...nor,” the verb agrees with the noun closest to it (“cans”). Since “cans” is plural, use are.

2. My collection of rare, unopened ketchup packets \_\_\_\_ in a locked safe.

- A) are
- B) is ☒
- C) were
- D) have been

Explanation: The subject is collection (singular), not “packets.” So the verb is is.

3. The football team \_\_\_\_ celebrating like they won the Super Bowl, even though it’s only halftime.

- A) is ☒
- B) are
- C) was
- D) has

Explanation: “Team” is a collective noun. In American English, collective nouns usually take a singular verb: is.

4. Each of my three cats \_\_\_\_ to sit directly on my laptop when I’m working.

- A) try
- B) tries ☒
- C) have tried
- D) were trying

Explanation: “Each” is always singular, even if it refers to multiple things. So it’s tries.

5. The pile of dirty socks \_\_\_\_ an ecosystem of its own.

- A) are
- B) is ☒
- C) were
- D) have been

Explanation: The subject is pile (singular), not “socks.” So the verb is is.



6. Neither the teacher nor the students \_\_\_\_ ready for Monday morning.

A) is

B) are ☒

C) was

D) has

Explanation: With “neither...nor,” the verb matches the closest subject. Closest subject = “students” (plural). Correct = are.

7. The scissors \_\_\_\_ missing again, which is suspicious because I live alone.

A) is

B) are ☒

C) was

D) has been

Explanation: “Scissors” is always treated as plural, even though it’s one object. So are is correct.

8. The news about aliens landing in Ohio \_\_\_\_ everyone on edge.

A) are

B) is ☒

C) were

D) have been

Explanation: “News” looks plural but is singular in meaning. So it takes is.

9. Ten dollars \_\_\_\_ enough to buy gas these days? Ha! That’s funny.

A) is ☒

B) are

C) were

D) have been

Explanation: When money is seen as a single amount, it’s singular. “Ten dollars” = one sum → is.

10. The band \_\_\_\_ tuning their instruments, but half of them are also arguing about pizza toppings.

A) is ☒

B) are

C) was

D) were

Explanation: In American English, “band” is treated as singular when referring to the group as a whole. Correct = is.

