***Explanation*:**

* **Subjects and verbs must AGREE with one another in NUMBER.**

**Present Tense:**

**When the subject is third person singular, most English verbs end in -s or -es but there is no -s or -es on third person plural.**

**Examples:***He* **goes to school.***They* **go to school.***Sita and Rama* **go to school.***You* **eat a mango.***Rami* **eats a mango.**

* **The verb ‘be’ and its forms are exception to this rule:**

**He is a friend.  
I am your friend.  
They are friends.**

* **Verbs that end with ‘y and have a consonant before this ‘y\ the ‘y’ changes into ‘I” and ‘-es is added if the subject is third person singular.**

**Ram relies on me.  
He tries his best.  
He flies a kite.**

* **A singular subject is sometimes mistaken as plural e.g. when it starts with (one of, either, neither etc.). Remember that these must be taken as singular.**

***Either* of you is wrong.  
*Neither* of them works here.  
*One* of the teachers teaches English.**

* **When a sentence begins with ‘there’ the verb agrees with the real subject that comes after the verb.**

**There comes *John*.  
There are *fifty students* in my class.**

* **When the subject is plural but represents a single figure or quantity, it takes a singular verb.**

***A hundred kilometers* is a long distance.  
*A thousand rupees* is not much these days.  
*Dal and roti* is a common North-Indian food.  
*A Thousand Leagues* Under The Sea is a famous novel.**

**Exercise 1:**

**Insert the correct form of the verbs in the blank spaces in the following sentences:**

1. A good dictionary ……… a lot. (costs)  
2. These five chairs ………. one thousand rupees. (cost)  
3. Ten kilometers ……… a long distance to walk. (is)  
4. Sita ……… next to my house. (lives)  
5. Bread and butter …….. a wholesome food. (is)  
6. One of these three boys ……….. first in his class every year. (stands)  
7. My kite ……….. very high in the sky. (flies)  
8. They ……… gloomy. (look)  
9. All the students in this school ………. English. (learn)  
10. My lawn ……… very beautiful in spring. (looks)

**Read the following sentences and circle the best option from the brackets:**  
1. The quality of the apples (was/were/are/has) not good.  
2. Fire and water (do/does/did/done) not agree.  
3. Time and tide (wait/waits/waited/waiting) for none.  
4. Justice, as well as mercy (allow/allowable/allows/allowing) it.  
5. Neither the teacher nor the students (is/am/are/was) in the school.  
6. Many a man (has/have/is/are) done so.  
7. The news (was/were/had/has) good.

8. The committee (is/are/was/has) divided on one minor point.  
9. The United States (is/are/has/have) a big navy.  
10. Everyone ran as fast as he (can/could/may/will).

11. Everyone (has/have) done his or her homework.

12. Each of the students (is/are) responsible for doing his or her work.

13. Either my father or my brothers (is/are) going to sell the car.

14. Neither my sisters nor my mother (is/are) going to sell the house.

15. The samples on the tray in the lab (need/needs) testing.

16. Mary and John usually (plays/play) together.

17. Both of the dogs (has/have) collars.