

**SKILL 23: MAKE VERBS AGREE AFTER CERTAIN WORDS**

Certain words in English are always grammatically singular, even though they might have plural meanings.

Everybody are going\* to the theater.

Even though we understand from this example that a lot of people are going to the theater, *everybody* is singular and requires a singular verb. The plural verb *are going* should be changed to the singular verb *is going*.

The following chart lists the grammatically singular words that have plural meanings:

SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT AFTER CERTAIN WORDS				
These words or expressions are grammatically singular, so they take singular verbs:				
<i>anybody</i>	<i>everybody</i>	<i>nobody</i>	<i>somebody</i>	<i>each (+ noun)</i>
<i>anyone</i>	<i>everyone</i>	<i>no one</i>	<i>someone</i>	<i>every (+ noun)</i>
<i>anything</i>	<i>everything</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>something</i>	

**EXERCISE 23:** Each of the following sentences contains one of the words that are grammatically singular but have plural meanings. Underline these words once and underline the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. It is impossible to believe that somebody actually admire that man.
- C 2. Each of the doctors in the building needs to have a separate reception area.
- \_\_\_ 3. The president felt that no one were better suited for the position of chief staff advisor.
- \_\_\_ 4. Everybody participating in the fund-raiser are to turn in the tickets by 8:00.
- \_\_\_ 5. Because of the low number of orders, nothing has to be done now.
- \_\_\_ 6. Every time someone take unnecessary breaks, precious moments of production time are lost.
- \_\_\_ 7. Anybody who goes to the top of the Empire State Building is impressed with the view.
- \_\_\_ 8. Every man, woman, and child in this line are required to sign the forms in order to complete the registration process.
- \_\_\_ 9. It is nice to believe that anything is possible if a person tries hard enough.
- \_\_\_ 10. The company reiterated to reporters that nobody have been dismissed because of the incident.