Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheet II

In the sentences in Exercise One, the subjects were immediately followed by the verbs. Often, however, you will find that a word or phrase that describes the subject comes between the subject and the verb. These words do not change the subject-verb relationship. To decide whether the verb should add an –s, look only at the subject, ignoring any words between the subject and the verb.

Examples: 1. Many readers of Shakespeare believe that King Lear is his best play.  
2. The character who tells the stories in The Arabian Nights is a woman who is trying to save her life by entertaining the king.

Exercise Two: In each sentence below, circle the verb that agrees with its subject.

1. Marvin’s excuses for not having completed his research paper (bore, bores) me.
2. Speeding in restricted zones, especially those near schools, (endanger, endangers) lives.
3. One computer for two or three students (seem, seems) inadequate.
4. The popularity of violent movies (reflect, reflects) the values of our society.
5. Honeydews, one of the favorite melons of consumers, (taste, tastes) clean and sweet.
6. Coaches who are disciplined and who demand discipline from their players usually (have, has) winning teams.
7. The annual sales of video games in the United States probably (exceed, exceeds) a billion dollars.
8. Small amounts of tar and nicotine (damage, damages) the health of smokers.
9. Fiberglass, often used as an insulating material in homes, (cause, causes) allergic reactions in some people.
10. The women riding in the back seat of the car (was, were) not injured in the accident.
11. Animals which sleep in the day and are active at night (have, has) good night vision.
12. The students waiting in line for tickets to the concert (expect, expects) to get good seats.
13. A teenager who tries to conform to the expectations of adults (is, are) often ridiculed by his or her peers.
14. The bark of some trees (have, has) been used for years by herbalists to treat certain diseases.

This handout is adapted from the Hinds Community College Writing Center Website. Only the format has been changed.