Subject-Verb Agreement – Exercise 5

Directions: Choose the correct present tense verb form for the sentences below. Check your answers with the interactive version of the exercise.

1. The dead trees and peeling paint, along with the broken windows and flapping shutters, ______ everyone believe that evil spirits haunt the deserted Sinclair house.
   A. made
   B. has made
   C. makes
   D. make

2. Where ______ the earrings that I left by the bathroom sink? Oh no! That stupid cat has swatted them down the drain again!
   A. was
   B. were
   C. is
   D. are

3. Neither of those sharks circling your boogie board ______ hungry enough to bite.
   A. looks
   B. look
   C. looked
   D. had looked
4. One hundred and fifty gallons _______ the amount of liquid the average living room rug can absorb. Rachel discovered this fact after taking a long shower when the curtain wasn’t tucked inside the tub.
   A. is  
   B. are  
   C. was  
   D. were

5. Agnes never loses a single possession. Everyone knows what belongs to her, for each pen, pencil, and paperclip _______ a tiny flag attached with Agnes’ full name on it.
   A. will have  
   B. has  
   C. have  
   D. had

6. Asteroids and comets slamming into Earth _______ Marge; she tries to remain under the protective cover of her roof as much as possible.
   A. worries  
   B. worry  
   C. worried  
   D. used to worry

7. Someone—perhaps Emmanuel or Paul—_______ the right wine to serve with earthworm lasagna.
   A. knew  
   B. will know  
   C. knows  
   D. know
8. These scissors _______ so dull that I’m not sure you could slice butter with them!
   A. is
   B. are
   C. has been
   D. had been

9. Physics _______ proven to be Jerry’s easiest subject this semester. He brings Carol, the lab assistant, an oatmeal-raisin cookie, and, as his reward, she finishes his report.
   A. has
   B. have
   C. had
   D. will have

10. The good jewelry Dad gave Sara for graduation _______ more than the cheap leather wallet that David got as his reward for finishing high school.
    A. costs
    B. cost
    C. will cost
    D. had cost

11. At Wendy’s Washateria, all of the dryers _______ six quarters before spinning wet clothes dry.
    A. gobbles
    B. gobble
    C. gobbled
    D. will gobble
12. At Wendy’s Washateria, each of the industrial washing machines _______ so forcefully during the spin cycle that new patrons dash outside, convinced that an earthquake is shaking the building.

A. rocks
B. rock
C. rocked
D. will rock

13. Everyone at Wendy’s Washateria, even Myra and old Mrs. Webster, _______ that she could afford her own washer and dryer at home.

A. wished
B. have wished
C. wish
D. wishes

14. Every cereal bowl and casserole dish _______ slipped out of Sheila’s soapy hands and shattered on the hard tile of the kitchen floor. Sheila really needs to buy a dishwasher.

A. has
B. have
C. will have
D. had

15. Not only fat caterpillars but also my neighbor’s rabbits _______ chewed my poor tomato plants to leafless nubs.

A. has
B. have
C. will have
D. had
16. Two cups of sliced jalapeno peppers ________ extreme for a single batch of burrito filling, but that’s the amount in Felipe’s recipe.

A. seemed
B. had seemed
C. seems
D. seem

17. Even after winning the away game, the girl’s basketball team ________ gloomy because Coach Cox will insist that the players return to their hotel rooms to study for next week’s classes.

A. is
B. are
C. was
D. were

18. Either The Matrix or Aliens ________ Sam’s favorite science-fiction movie.

A. was
B. were
C. is
D. are

19. The eight slots on Pam’s extra large toaster ________ that no one has to fight over frozen waffles during breakfast.

A. meant
B. will mean
C. means
D. mean
20. "Here ______ the box of broken appliances that you promised to repair," Bob reminded Sue, his wife.

A. is  
B. are  
C. will be  
D. have been

21. Statistics ______ become Matt’s favorite subject because for fifty minutes three times a week he gets to study the beautiful curls on the back of Betty’s head.

A. has  
B. have  
C. had  
D. will have

22. Elton’s newest pair of eyeglasses ______ corrected his vision so well that this young man clearly sees the lovely Miranda sneering at his nerdy appearance.

A. have  
B. had  
C. has  
D. will have

23. The class ______ about the solution to the stuffy condition of the room; ten students want to open the window, but the others remember the flood of frightened cockroaches that poured in the last time Mr. Frampton released the window from the frame.

A. disagrees  
B. disagree  
C. disagreed  
D. will continue to disagree
24. When the fire alarm starts ringing, Mrs. Hoff is one of those teachers who _______
   that class continue on the lawn outside.

   A. insists
   B. insist
   C. insisted
   D. has insisted

25. Mrs. Hoff and Mrs. Phillips _______ that class time is precious and should not be
   wasted because of someone’s immature prank.

   A. believes
   B. believe
   C. believed
   D. will believe