

## ***What the World Needs Now: Practice with embedded questions as subjects***

### ***Directions for the teacher:***

**STEP 1** – Ask the class to suggest endings to the sentence “What the world needs now is...”

**STEP 2** – Tell them that they are going to listen to a song. Tell them it’s a ballad - - a slow, simple song that’s romantic in nature. Ask them to guess the song title: *What the World Needs Now Is \_\_\_\_\_*. (Answer: “Love”) Play a version of this popular song. (Suggested artist: Dionne Warwick) Ask them to listen for what the world needs and doesn’t need. Complete Task A.

**STEP 3** – Change the song title so that it includes a plural noun after BE. Ask students if the subject and verb still agree. Example: *What the World Needs Now Is People Who Care*.

Complete Task B and ask students to identify the pattern. Students should discover that a plural noun following a *what*-clause + BE calls for a plural form of BE. Correct: *What the World Needs Now Are People Who Care*. Have students circle the plural verb forms.

**STEP 4** – Complete Task C. Ask students what the difference is between the sentences in Task A and B. Students should discover that *what*-clauses behave differently than other embedded questions used as subjects. Only the *what*-clauses can be followed by a plural form of the verb, and that happens when the noun in the predicate is plural. Why does item 4 in Task B have a plural verb? – It has a compound subject. Two embedded questions are joined by *and*.

**STEP 5** – Complete Task D.

**STEP 6** – Optional: Have students work in small groups to rewrite the lyrics to the song, substituting “the world” with another place or a group of people. They should try to make other logical changes. Example:

What our school needs now is free coffee  
It's the only thing that we all really need  
What our school needs now is free coffee  
No not just for some but for everyone.  
Lord, we don't need another computer,  
There are books and dictionaries enough to read  
There are pens and pencils enough to write,  
Enough to last till the end of time...

Students can read or sing their lyrics for the class.

## ***What the World Needs Now: Practice with embedded questions as subjects***

### **Task A. Complete the lyrics.**

What the world needs now is \_\_\_\_\_.

(...)

We don't need another \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ enough to climb.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ enough to cross.

(...)

We don't need another \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ enough to grow.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ enough to shine.

Lyrics by Burt Bacharach

More lyrics: [http://www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/b/burt\\_bacharach/](http://www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/b/burt_bacharach/)

### **Task B. Identify the underlined nouns as uncountable (U), singular (S), or plural (P). Check one.**

- |  |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. What the world needs now is <u>love</u> .                                 | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 2. What the world needs now are more <u>acts</u> of kindness.                | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 3. What everyone should have is the <u>opportunity</u> to succeed.           | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 4. What everyone should have are simple <u>moments</u> filled with laughter. | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 5. What woke me up wasn't the bright <u>sun</u> .                            | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 6. What woke me up were the loud <u>footsteps</u> of my upstairs neighbors.  | U [ ] | S [ ] | P [ ] |

### **Task C. Identify the underlined verbs as singular (S) or plural (P). Check one.**

- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. How you can have a bad mood on such a beautiful day <u>is</u> a mystery.                                 | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 2. Why the neighbors must be so loud <u>is</u> something I wish I could explain.                            | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 3. Where the dark clouds hang in the sky <u>depends</u> on your attitude and ability to put troubles aside. | S [ ] | P [ ] |
| 4. How to ignore unpleasant acts and how to laugh at your troubles <u>are</u> things you need to learn.     | S [ ] | P [ ] |

### **Task D. Complete the sentences. Then share your ideas with a partner.**

1. What this city needs (is / are) ...
2. What all students want (is / are) ...
3. What angers many people (is / are) ...
4. What I hope to have in the near future (is / are) ...
5. Where I'd like to be ten years from now is....