Subject-verb agreement: exercise

Complete the following sentences using a verb in agreement with the subject.

1. Tobacco and alcohol ..................... injurious to health. (is / are)
2. Age and experience ....................... wisdom. (bring / brings)
3. My father and my guardian .................. me to study law. (want / wants)
4. Oil and water ......................... not mix. (do / does)
5. Each man and each woman ................. a vote. (has / have)
6. Neither John nor Peter ..................... any right to the property. (has / have)
7. Either Jack or his brother .................. responsible for this. (is / are)
8. A thousand dollars ....................... distributed among the prize winners. (was / were)
9. One of my friends ....................... in Paris. (work / works)
10. A committee ....................... appointed to assess the gravity of the situation.

Answers

1. Tobacco and alcohol are injurious to health. (Two or more singular nouns connected by and usually take a plural verb.)
2. Age and experience brings wisdom. (Age alone doesn’t bring wisdom. Here the two nouns together express the same idea and hence we use a singular verb.)
3. My father and my guardian want me to study law.
4. Oil and water do not mix.
5. Each man and each woman has a vote.
6. Neither John nor Peter has any right to the property.
7. Either Jack or his brother is responsible for this.
8. A thousand dollars were distributed among the prize winners.
10. A committee **was** appointed to assess the gravity of the situation. (A collective noun takes a singular verb when the group is thought of as a single unit.)