

Compound Subjects

1f. A **compound subject** consists of two or more connected subjects that have the same verb.

The most common connecting words are *and* and *or*.

COMPOUND SUBJECT The **doorbell** and the **telephone** rang at the same time.

EXERCISE A Each of the following sentences contains a compound subject. Underline the parts of the subject in each sentence.

Example 1. Pepper and Salty are our pet cats.

1. Kelly and I found two kittens.
2. My sister and Kelly named them Pepper and Salty.
3. The cats and our dog get along well.
4. My classmates and neighbors often come to visit.
5. Jacqui or Danielle will bring a leash for our dog.
6. Will the other dogs and my dog play together?
7. My sister or I will feed all the dogs.
8. Pepper and Salty sometimes wake up the dogs in the morning.
9. My aunts and uncles all have pets.
10. Parakeets, poodles, and goldfish are my grandmother's favorite pets.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, underline all parts of the compound subject.

Example 1. Glenn and his brother visited Knoxville, Tennessee.

11. The brothers and their father went to the lake.
12. Ducks, geese, and other birds gathered around the lake.
13. Several picnic tables and benches were lined up on one side of the lake.
14. Are the sandwiches and drinks in the ice chest?
15. The brothers, their father, and several other tourists played a game of kickball.
16. Did Glenn or his father bring the kickball to the lake?
17. Glenn's brother and a duck got into a tug of war over a slice of bread.
18. Were the sandwiches, drinks, and fresh fruit enough to feed everyone?
19. Glenn's brother and father cleared the table after the meal.
20. Glenn, his brother, and his father had a splendid time at the lake.

Compound Verbs

1g. A **compound verb** consists of two or more verbs that have the same subject.

A connecting word—usually *and*, *or*, or *but*—is used between the verbs.

COMPOUND VERB The Tigers **won** the first game of the double-header but **did not win** the second.

EXERCISE A Each of the following sentences contains a compound verb. Underline the parts of the verb in each sentence.

Example 1. Megan loves music and enjoys classical concerts.

1. Megan will learn viola, study music theory, and take piano lessons.
2. Her school music teacher gives her lessons and shows her new tunes.
3. Megan reads music but doesn't sight-read fast.
4. The study of rhythm requires patience and takes time.
5. A music staff has five lines and can look complex at first.
6. Notes may sit on the lines or occupy the spaces between the lines.
7. The notes correspond to the first seven letters of the alphabet and stand for certain tones.
8. Megan reads the note and bows the appropriate string.
9. Megan practices viola often and is improving day by day.
10. Should Megan practice for another hour or start her homework now?

EXERCISE B Underline the parts of the compound verb in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. Ted stood, slipped on the grass, and fell into the pond.

11. The cattle slipped and slid in the muddy creek bed.
12. Will Mara come to the party or stay home?
13. Close the hood, wipe the oil off your hands, and start the engine again.
14. Carlie shot the final picture on the roll and rewind the film.
15. Did the outfielder drop the ball or make the catch?

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Compound Subjects and Verbs

1f. A **compound subject** consists of two or more connected subjects that have the same verb.

EXAMPLE Gloria and Ricky are popular singers.

1g. A **compound verb** consists of two or more verbs that have the same subject.

EXAMPLE Rita **sings** and **dances** beautifully.

EXERCISE A Underline the compound subject or compound verb in each of the following sentences. Then, on the line provided, identify the compound part by writing *CS* for *compound subject* or *CV* for *compound verb*.

Example CS 1. Vegetables and whole grains are good for your heart.

- _____ 1. According to scientists, too much fat and cholesterol in the diet are harmful.
- _____ 2. Cheeseburgers and milkshakes contain large amounts of both.
- _____ 3. Therefore, you should not eat or drink such fatty snacks too often.
- _____ 4. Did you and your sister have apples or carrot sticks as a snack today?
- _____ 5. In the future, stop and think about the health effects of your meals.

EXERCISE B On the lines provided, combine each of the following pairs of sentences by writing one sentence with a compound subject or a compound verb. Hint: When you create a sentence with a compound subject, you may also need to change other words in the sentence.

Example 1. Gettysburg is a Civil War battle site. Fredericksburg is, too.

Gettysburg and Fredericksburg are Civil War battle sites.

6. Maples grow well in this area. Birches grow well, too. _____

7. Sabrina runs every other day. Sabrina swims every other day. _____

8. The emu is a flightless bird. So is the kiwi. _____

9. Kwanita designed a new kind of kite. Then she built the kite. _____

10. When was Sandra Day O'Connor confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court? When was Ruth Bader Ginsburg confirmed? _____
