

20.1 Compound Subjects and Verbs • Practice 1

Compound Subjects A compound subject is two or more subjects that have the same verb and are joined by a conjunction such as *and* or *or*.

COMPOUND SUBJECTS
Mother or Dad will pick us up after the movie.
Lobsters, shrimp, and crabs are popular shellfish.

Compound Verbs A compound verb is two or more verbs that have the same subject and are joined by a conjunction such as *and* or *or*.

COMPOUND VERBS
The waves crested and broke against the rocks.
The passers-by did not move on but stopped to watch the mime.
Paul and Andrew write, direct, and star in their own plays.

Exercise 1 Recognizing Compound Subjects. Underline the nouns or pronouns that make up each compound subject below.

EXAMPLE: High winds and freezing rain caused the power failure.

- Carrots or small tomatoes would make an attractive garnish.
- Cheese and whole-wheat crackers are a healthful snack.
- Nancy, Darryl, and I worked on the decorations.
- Time and the tide wait for no one.
- In the forest, ferns and wildflowers abound.
- Neither my brother nor I felt comfortable with those people.
- Without your help, the table and the food would not have been ready.
- Jason and Ulysses are characters from Greek mythology.
- Pueblos, hogans, and tepees were common Indian dwellings.
- In colonial times, stocks and pillories were used for punishment.

Exercise 2 Recognizing Compound Verbs. Underline the verbs that make up each compound verb below.

EXAMPLE: The masked stranger mounted his horse and galloped away.

- The baby eats and sleeps on a regular schedule.
- The photographer checked the lighting, posed the subject, and snapped the picture.
- The paramedic did not hesitate but acted at once.
- The captain hoisted the sail and pulled up the anchor.
- The sick puppy neither ate nor drank.
- The whole family baked and cooked for days before the holiday.
- Brenda organized her note cards and began her rough draft.
- Mike pruned and fertilized the grapefruit plant.
- The departing dignitary neither waved nor looked back.
- Some students seldom study but still do well.