

Unit 1 — The Sentence III Compound Subjects and Predicates

- A sentence may have more than one subject. This is called a **compound subject**.
Spices and herbs improve the taste of food.
 - The compound subjects are often joined by a coordinating conjunction: *and, but, or, for, nor, yet*.
*Spices **and** herbs improve the taste of food.*
 - Both subjects with answer the question “*who*” or “*what*” before the verb.
Spices and herbs improve the taste of food. (What improve? – **Spices** improve, **herbs** improve.)
 - A sentence may have more than one verb. This is called a compound verb.
*I **slipped** and **tumbled** down the stairs.* (There are two actions– *slipping* and *tumbling*.)
 - The compound verbs are often joined by a coordinating conjunction like *and* or *or*.
*I **slipped** **and** **tumbled** down the stairs.*
 - If a sentence has three or more subjects or three or more verbs in a series, then these items are set off by commas.
Pancakes, eggs and sausage are common breakfast foods. –three subjects
*We **packed** our bags, **climbed** in the van and **headed** for Missoula.* –three verbs
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Exercise 1 Identifying Compound subjects.

Underline each verb twice, underline each subject once, and place a vertical line between the complete subject and verb.

Example: Spices and herbs | improve the taste of food.

1. Many CD's and cassettes will be on sale at Sam's next week.
2. Blizzards, forest fires, and floods hit Montana last year.
3. The captain and his crew stayed with the damaged vessel.
4. My older sister and my brother play the electric guitar.
5. Carla, Joyce, and Juan were elected the new class officers.
6. Both Kim and Leila tried out for lead roles in the school play.
7. Either a turkey or a ham will be our Christmas dinner.
8. Friends, family, and faculty gathered for the senior graduation.
9. Neither snow nor sleet stops our mail carrier.
10. A sharp pencil and a sharp mind complement one another.
11. The fog and the sleet slowed us down.
12. The couch and the chair match the livingroom carpet.

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Exercise 2: Identifying Compound Verbs

Underline each verb twice, underline each subject once, and place a vertical line between the complete subject and verb.

Example: My dog | barked and scratched at the door.

1. My cousin dived into the pool and injured her arm.
2. I slipped and tumbled down the stairs.
3. The nurse arrived and noticed the improvement.
4. Bradley told jokes and entertained everyone.
5. The tired dancer lay on the mat and exhaled slowly.
6. She caught the bus or took a taxi.
7. David shampooed the carpets and let them dry.
8. The Steeles drove all the way to Los Angeles but flew home.
9. My doctor gave me an injection and sent me to physical therapy.
10. Mr. Lee ran to the phone, inserted a coin, and called the police.

Compound Subjects and Compound Verbs

- A sentence can have both a compound subject and a compound verb:
Our digital camera and video recorder have optical zoom and are rechargeable.
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Exercise 3: Identifying Compound Subjects with Compound verbs

Underline each verb twice, underline each subject once, and place a vertical line between the complete subject and verb.

Example: Zane and Mindy | drove home and put their five kids to bed.

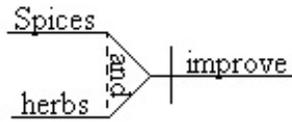
1. Shelly and Burton arrived late to the meeting and sat down quickly.
2. Kathleen and her husband view the calm blue sea and are content.
3. Mary, Melinda, Margaret and Mona meet every Tuesday, brew tea and play bridge.
4. Snowboarders and Skiers share the same slopes and ride the same lifts.
5. Jim and John floated down the Bitterroot and fished together.
6. Uncle Reed and his friend Tom went hunting together but found no game.
7. The grizzly bear and the mountain lion often occupy the same forest but generally avoid each other.
8. Daffodils and tulips bloom in the early spring and are my wife's favorite flowers.
9. Rob and Mark are our two best forwards yet have a hard time getting along with each other.
10. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Lohn opened an office but need more space.

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Diagramming Compound Subjects and Verbs

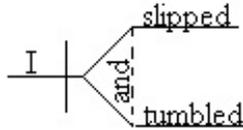
- To diagramming **compound subjects**, the base line splits as shown. The coordinating conjunction which connects the two subjects is placed on the dotted line which connects the split baseline. Notice that the base line must be brought back together before the vertical line which separates the complete subject from the complete verb.

Spices and herbs improve the taste of food.



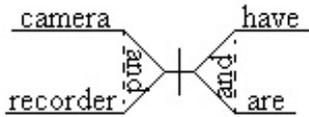
- To diagram **compound verbs**, the base line is split after the vertical line. Again, the coordinating conjunction is placed on the dotted line between the two baselines.

I slipped and tumbled down the stairs.



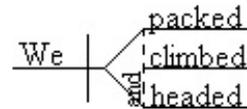
- A **compound subject** and **compound verb**:

Our digital camera and video recorder have optical zoom and are rechargeable.



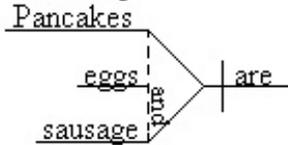
- Three or more verbs:

We packed our bags, climbed in the van and headed to Missoula.



- Three or more subjects:

Pancakes, eggs and sausage are common breakfast foods.



Exercise 3 Diagramming Compound Subjects and Verbs.

On a separate sheet of paper diagram the odd sentences from exercise 1, exercise 2 and exercise 3.

Exercise 4 Writing Compound Subjects and Verbs.

Write a complete sentence demonstrating each of the following:

- Compound Subject: _____

- Compound Verb: _____

- Compound Subject and Verb: _____

- A Compound with three or more in a series: _____
