

What Are Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates?

A **Compound Subject** is made up of two or more subjects that share the same predicate (verb). Usually, the two subjects are connected by a conjunction. In general, if *and* is used to join the subjects, choose a plural form of the verb. If *or* or *nor* is used, choose a singular form of the verb.

Kyle and Jamal, **each earns** Eagle Scout awards. (singular)

Kyle and **Jamal** **earn** Eagle Scout awards. (plural)

Mark and **Randy** **are** like monkeys. (plural)

Either Mark or Randy **is** like a monkey. (singular)

A **Compound Predicate** (verb) is made up of two or more verbs or verb phrases that describe the action of the same subject. Just like compound subjects, these verbs and verb phrases are connected with conjunctions.

NOTE: A sentence can have both a compound subject AND a compound predicate.

Like a flash, the **wide receiver** **darted** across the field and **dashed** into the open.

A **rabbit**, a **cat**, and a **horse** **walked** into the barn and **talked** to the spider.

The most important part about subjects and predicates—compound or not—is to make sure they both agree in number. Meaning—a singular subject takes a singular verb and a plural subject takes a plural verb. This is called Subject-Verb Agreement. This is a lesson for another time, but do realize the importance of this agreement when writing.

Use the image to the right to develop several examples of compound subjects and compound predicates. Take care that they agree in number.



Cheese rolling competition in Ireland-Jules Annan-Zumapress