

The Compound Subject

Recognize a *compound subject* when you see one.

Every verb in a sentence must have at least one subject. But that doesn't mean that a verb can have *only* one subject. Some verbs are greedy as far as subjects go. A greedy verb can have two, three, four, or more subjects all to itself. When a verb has two or more subjects, you can say that the verb has a *compound subject*. Check out the following examples:

At the local Dairy Queen, **Marsha** gasped at the sight of pickle slices on her banana split.

Marsha = subject; **gasp** = verb.

At the local Dairy Queen, **Jenny** and **Marsha** gasped at the sight of pickle slices on their banana splits.

Jenny, Marsha = compound subject; **gasp** = verb.

At the local Dairy Queen, **Officer Jenkins, Mrs. Lowery, the Williams twins, Harold, Billy Jo, Jenny,** and **Marsha** gasped at the sight of pickle slices on their banana splits.

Officer Jenkins, Mrs. Lowery, the Williams twins, Harold, Billy Jo, Jenny, Marsha = compound subject; **gasp** = verb.



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