

Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates

A sentence may have more than one simple subject or simple predicate.

A **compound subject** is two or more simple subjects that have the same predicate. The subjects are joined by *and*, *or*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, or *but*.

Example 1: **Oregon** and **Washington** lie along the Pacific coast.

Example 2: Neither **Kevin** nor **Glenda** wanted to try the cookies.

A **compound predicate** is two or more simple predicates (or verbs) that have the same subject. The verbs are connected by *and*, *or*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, or *but*.

Example 1: Susan **danced** and **leaped** around the house after learning that she got the job.

Example 2: Many people neither **enjoy** nor **appreciate** the orchestra.

Exercise

Directions: Each of the following sentences has either a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both. Draw one line under the simple subjects and two lines under the simple predicates.

Example 1: The pretty girl and handsome boy held hands as they walked down the street.

Example 2: The rain poured down the roof tops and splattered the pavement below.

1. Apples and oranges grow on trees.
2. Farmers pick oranges and package them for sale.
3. Tina and her sisters sang for the church choir.
4. Silva or Kevin will show the students how to use the lab.
5. We ate and slept in the trailer.
6. The ceiling and walls of her bedroom are the same color.
7. Both California and Nevada have hot deserts.
8. Thoughtful neighbors and friends of the family sent bouquets to the funeral.

9. Either yellow or orange clashes with this color.
10. Many people around the world both understand and use the English language.
11. Bees produce honey and beeswax and help the pollination process.
12. The House and Senate prepare, discuss, and vote on legislation.
13. Puppies and kittens are tremendous responsibilities but are worth it!
14. Exercise and nutrition are just two keys to good health.
15. Kaitlin and her family swam and hiked last weekend.

Answer Key:

1. apples; oranges; grow
2. Farmers; pick; package
3. Tina; sisters; sang
4. Silva; Kevin; will show
5. We; ate; slept
6. ceiling; walls; are
7. California; Nevada; have
8. neighbors; friends; sent
9. yellow; orange; clashes
10. people; understand; use
11. Bees; produce; help
12. House; Senate; prepare; discuss, vote
13. Puppies; kittens; are; are
14. Exercise; nutrition; are
15. Kaitlin; family; swam; hiked