

THE COMPOUND SUBJECT

Recognize a compound subject when you find one.

Every **verb** in a **sentence** must have at least one **subject**. But that does not 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.

Consider these examples:

At the local ice cream parlor, **Marsha** gasped at the sight of pickle slices on her banana split.

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

At the local ice cream parlor, **Jenny** and **Marsha** gasped at the sight of pickle slices on their banana splits.

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

At the local ice cream parlor, **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.

