

THE COMPOUND VERB

Recognize a compound verb when you find one.

Every **subject** in a **sentence** must have at least one **verb**. But that does not mean that a subject can have only *one* verb. Some subjects are greedy as far as verbs go. A greedy subject can have two, three, four, or more verbs all to itself.

When a subject has two or more verbs, you can say that the subject has a *compound* verb.

Consider these examples:

Before mixing the ingredients for his world-famous cookies, Bobby **swatted** a fly buzzing around the kitchen.

Bobby = subject; **swatted** = verb.

Before mixing the ingredients for his world-famous cookies, Bobby **swatted** a fly buzzing around the kitchen and **crushed** a cockroach scurrying across the floor.

Bobby = subject; **swatted, crushed** = *compound* verb.

Before mixing the ingredients for his world-famous cookies, Bobby **swatted** a fly buzzing around the kitchen, **crushed** a cockroach scurrying across the floor, **shooed** the cat off the counter, **picked** his nose, **scratched** his armpit, **licked** his fingers, and **sneezed**.

Bobby = subject; **swatted, crushed, shooed, picked, scratched, licked, sneezed** = *compound* verb.

