## 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; $\boldsymbol{s w a t t e d}=$ 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.

