

Name: _____ Date: _____

LESSON 4

Compound Subjects, Predicates, and Sentences

A sentence may have more than one subject or predicate. A **compound subject** has two or more simple subjects that have the same predicate. The subjects are joined by the conjunctions *and*, *or*, or *but*. A **compound predicate** has two or more simple predicates, or verbs, that share the same subject. The verbs are connected by the conjunctions *and*, *or*, or *but*.

EXAMPLES

compound subject

Panchito and his family | moved to Fresno, California.

compound predicate

The family | unpacked their belongings and cleaned their new home.

A sentence may have both a compound subject and a compound predicate.

EXAMPLE

compound subject and compound predicate

Panchito and Roberto | drank water and poured it over their faces.

A **compound sentence** consists of two independent clauses joined by a semicolon or by a comma and coordinating conjunction. Each independent clause has its own subject and verb. Common coordinating conjunctions include *and*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *but*, *so*, and *yet*.

EXAMPLES

compound sentence

Mr. Lema helped Panchito with English; he also offered to teach him to play the trumpet.

compound sentence

Panchito was going to school, **but** Roberto had to stay home and pick grapes.

EXERCISE 1

Identifying Compound Subjects, Predicates, and Sentences

Underline the simple subjects in each sentence. Double underline the simple predicates. Then tell whether the sentence has a compound subject, compound predicate, or compound subject and predicate and whether the sentence is a compound sentence.

EXAMPLE

Gorilla babies are tiny, but they grow twice as fast as human babies. (compound sentence)

1. Baby gorillas are weak and thin at first so their mothers carry them under their chins.

2. The baby can cling to its mother for safety and drink her milk.

3. Young gorillas can forage, eat, and play for hours.

4. Monkeys, chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas, and humans make up a primate group.

5. Male gorillas will often wrestle and bite each other.

6. Insects, slugs, snails, grubs, fruit, and leaves are part of the gorilla's diet.

7. Playing, grooming, and other group activities strengthen family bonds.

8. A group whose members have strong connections is more likely to survive, for they will help each other.

9. To make a nest, gorillas grab plants, bend them underneath them, and then rotate several times.

10. Many people hunt gorillas and sell their body parts for money.

EXERCISE 2

Understanding Compound Subjects, Predicates, and Sentences

Write sentences containing the elements described in each item below.

1. compound subject

2. compound predicate

3. compound subject and compound predicate

4. compound sentence using conjunction *and*

5. compound sentence using conjunction *but*

6. compound sentence using conjunction *so*

7. compound sentence using semicolon

8. compound subject and compound sentence

9. compound predicate and compound sentence

10. compound subject, compound predicate, and compound sentence

EXERCISE 3

Using Compound Subjects, Compound Predicates, and Compound Sentences in Your Writing

Think of one item you use nearly every day, such as a blow dryer or a telephone. For a school magazine, write a product review that tells what the item does. Include at least five things that the product does well and three things that it does not do well. You may include a description of the product, but your emphasis should be on evaluating how well it works. Include in your review five of the different combinations of compound elements listed in Exercise 2. Use your own sheet of paper for this exercise.