Compound Subjects

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
- Identify compound subjects in sentences.
- Understand how compound subjects are formed.
- Use compound subjects in sentences.

Preparation

Materials Needed
- Chart paper and markers
- Compound Subjects (BLM 7)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the practice text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Compound Subjects

Say: Listen to this sentence: “My parents and my brother lived with me in a small apartment.” In this sentence, there are two subjects: my parents and my brother. Two or more simple subjects that are joined by the conjunction and or or and that have the same verb are called compound subjects. In the example sentence, lived is the verb. Both the parents and brother lived with the narrator in a small apartment.

Model Using Compound Subjects

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

Modeling Text

1. Paris and London remain my favorite vacation spots.
2. The parks and monuments and museums include many interesting features.

After sentence 1. Say: In the first sentence, Paris and London is the compound subject. The two simple subjects are joined by the conjunction and, and they share the same verb, remain. (Underline Paris and London.)

After sentence 2. Say: The parks and monuments and museums in the second sentence is also a compound subject, and include is the verb. This compound subject has three subjects joined by and. (Underline The parks and monuments and museums.) Writers use compound subjects when they want to show two or more subjects doing the same action. This helps streamline their writing because they don’t have to write multiple sentences to explain what each subject did.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Compound Subjects

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to form pairs. Invite pairs to combine each set of sentences into one sentence with a compound verb. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. My brother saw the Grand Canyon on our trip. I saw the Grand Canyon on our trip.
2. Pigeons perched on the roof of our building. Other birds perched on the roof of our building.
3. Kerry goes to the movies each Saturday. Steven goes to the movies each Saturday. I go to the movies each Saturday.

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Compound Subjects

Invite pairs to share their results. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

• What sentence did you make?
• What word did you use to connect the subjects?
• What verb goes with the compound subject?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that compound subjects are two or more simple subjects that are joined by a conjunction. Compound subjects share the same verb. You can use compound subjects in your memoirs to tell about things you did together with other people.

If you would like to give students additional practice using compound subjects in sentences, have them complete BLM 7.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their sentences from BLM 7. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

While other students collaborate on the small-group activity or write independently, meet one on one with ELs to support developmentally appropriate grammar skills based on their independent writing and language level. For example, you may want to work with students’ use of subjects and verbs in sentences.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers to revise the practice sentences. Make sure that students understand the meaning of the sentences before they begin the activity.