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The Compound Verb

Recognize a *compound verb* when you see one.

Every subject in a sentence must have at least one verb. But that doesn't 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*. Check out the following 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.



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