

**25.1**

# Subject and Verb Agreement (Compound Subjects) • Practice 1

**Compound Subjects** A singular subject after *or* takes a singular verb. A plural subject after *or* takes a plural verb. Compound subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb unless they are thought of as one thing or modified by *every* or *each*.

AGREEMENT WITH COMPOUND SUBJECTS	
<b>Joined by or or nor</b>	Ed, Sue, or Pam <i>has</i> a good chance of winning. Neither the cats nor the dogs <i>eat</i> table scraps. Either the servants or the owner <i>shows</i> tourists around. Either the owner or the servants <i>show</i> tourists around.
<b>Joined by and</b>	Hot dogs and hamburgers <i>are</i> traditional picnic foods. Ian and Pete <i>are</i> on the same team. Bacon, lettuce, and tomato <i>is</i> my favorite sandwich. Every man, woman, and child <i>has</i> a separate seat.

**Exercise 1** **Compound Subjects Joined by Or or Nor.** Write the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

**EXAMPLE:** Louise or her sisters are usually home in the evening. (is, are)

1. Neither Elmer nor his children \_\_\_\_\_ fried chicken. (like, likes)
2. Pat, Dana, or Tony \_\_\_\_\_ a good person to ask for directions. (is, are)
3. The twins or their sister \_\_\_\_\_ for the Harpers. (baby-sit, baby-sits)
4. Either Dad or Mom \_\_\_\_\_ bought corn for dinner. (has, have)
5. Nelly, Dobbin, or Prince \_\_\_\_\_ a good name for the horse. (is, are)
6. Erik or the twins \_\_\_\_\_ always welcome here. (is, are)
7. Neither Dawn nor her mother \_\_\_\_\_ faddish clothes. (buy, buys)
8. Either the magician himself or his assistants \_\_\_\_\_ up the audience. (warm, warms)
9. Mom or my brothers \_\_\_\_\_ sweet rolls on Sunday morning. (get, gets)
10. Kim or Kelly \_\_\_\_\_ the daily paper. (deliver, delivers)

**Exercise 2** **Compound Subjects Joined by And.** Write the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

**EXAMPLE:** Peanut butter and jelly is a favorite sandwich with children. (is, are)

1. My brother and sister \_\_\_\_\_ been very cooperative lately. (has, have)
2. Every glass and plate in the house \_\_\_\_\_ dirty after the party. (was, were)
3. Both the painter and the carpenter \_\_\_\_\_ coming today. (is, are)
4. The chairs and table \_\_\_\_\_ made of oak. (is, are)
5. The Stars and Stripes \_\_\_\_\_ the United States. (represent, represents)