

1 Here's the Idea

A compound subject contains two or more simple subjects. Compound subjects can take either singular or plural verbs.

Parts Joined by *And*

- ▶ **A compound subject whose parts are joined by *and* usually requires a plural verb.**

Michael Jackson and the Eagles have sold over 22 million copies of single albums.

A subject containing *and* takes a singular verb, however, if it

- names a single thing

Rhythm and blues is a music style developed in the South.

- consists of singular parts modified by *each*, *every*, or *many a*

Almost every teenager and young adult has been influenced by the music of Elvis Presley.

Parts Joined by *Or* or *Nor*

- ▶ **When the parts of a compound subject are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb should agree with the part closest to it.**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart or Johann Sebastian Bach is often named as the greatest composer of classical music.



Neither Mozart nor the five Bachs have left as much music as Georg Philipp Telemann, however.

