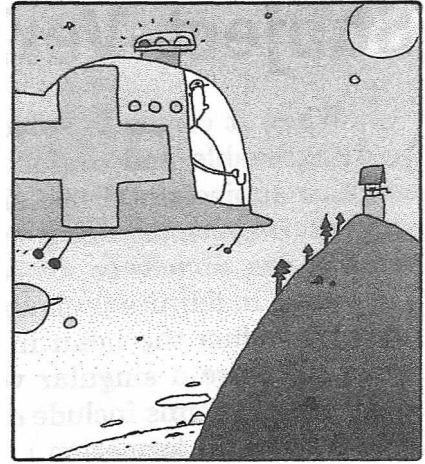


# Subject- Verb Agreement 3

Sometimes it is tricky getting subjects and verbs to agree. Compound subjects are double trouble when it comes to agreement. When a compound subject is joined by *and*, use a plural verb. If a compound subject is connected by *or* or *nor*, use a verb that agrees with the subject closest to the verb. (For more information, turn to page 88 in *Write Source 2000*.)



## EXAMPLES

**Jack and Jill were on their way down the hill.**

(The subject *Jack and Jill* is plural so the plural verb *were* is used.)

**Neither Jack nor Jill was able to avoid falling.**

(*Jill* is singular so the singular verb *was* is used.)

**Jack's neighbor or his brothers were first on the scene.**

(*Brothers*-the word closest to the verb-is plural so the plural verb *were* is used.)

## Directions

Correct any errors in subject-verb agreement in the following sentences by changing the verbs. Do not change verbs that are correct. The first sentence is done for you.

*say*

1. The owner of the well and his lawyer ~~says~~ Jack and Jill were trespassing.
2. Jack and Jill testify that the well and the hill is unsafe.
3. Jack and Jill and their lawyer says the hill should be fenced off because it is too dangerous.
4. Then one lawyer or the other object, and the judge pounds his gavel to quiet the courtroom.
5. Jack or Jill need to ask permission and to pay for each pailful of water next time he or she goes to the well.
6. Jack and Jill say to forget it; they will drink bottled water.