

Subject-Verb Agreement C *WS-3*

8c. The number of a subject is not changed by a phrase following the subject.

EXAMPLE The phases **of the moon** are caused by changes in the amount of sunlight reflected by the moon. [The plural helping verb *are* agrees with the plural subject *phases*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, circle the phrase following the subject. Then, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

Example 1. The moon (in the night sky) (*are, is*) a beautiful sight.

1. People throughout history (*has, have*) been fascinated by the moon.
2. The distance to the moon (*is, are*) 384,403 kilometers (238,857 miles).
3. The features of the moon (*is, are*) seen through powerful telescopes.
4. The sun, like the earth, (*influences, influence*) the moon's motion.
5. The moon's orbit around the earth (*takes, take*) about 27 days, 8 hours.
6. The earth, at the same time, (*moves, move*) around the sun.
7. A full moon, on the average, (*occurs, occur*) every 29 1/2 days.
8. Tides on the earth (*rises, rise*) according to the moon's gravitational pull.
9. Photography from lunar-orbiting vehicles (*shows, show*) features on the moon's surface.
10. Exploration of the moon (*continues, continue*).

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, circle the prepositional phrase following the subject. Then, underline the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject.

Example 1. The contributions of immigrants (*has, have*) enriched many countries.

11. The names of some American Jewish authors (*is, are*) well known.
12. A famous author of short stories and novels (*is, are*) Bernard Malamud.
13. Jewish writers of fiction (*includes, include*) Saul Bellow.
14. A Nobel Prize in literature (*was, were*) awarded to Saul Bellow.
15. Another writer of Jewish descent (*is, are*) Philip Roth.