Subject-Verb Agreement C

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.