

Subjects and Predicates

- 15b.** Sentences consist of two basic parts: *subjects* and *predicates*. The *subject* tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about. The *predicate* tells something about the subject.

	SUBJECT		PREDICATE
	We		laughed.
	SUBJECT		PREDICATE
	Each of the books		must be logged in.
PREDICATE	SUBJECT		PREDICATE
How much has	your peach crop		produced this year?

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group as the subject or the predicate of the sentence by writing above the word group *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example 1. ^S Some of the worst disasters in history have been caused by volcanic eruptions.

1. Volcanoes and volcanic eruptions have long been a source of fascination and terror.
2. They have even played a role in the religions of many cultures.
3. Have scientists given the world any explanations of volcanic activity?
4. On November 14, 1963, a volcano created a new island off the coast of Iceland.
5. Have articles about volcanoes or geothermal energy appeared in any magazines lately?
6. From the internal heat of the earth comes geothermal energy.
7. In Iceland geothermal energy is released by the internal heat of the earth.
8. In 1980, the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens shocked the world.
9. Because of geologists' efforts to predict the eruption, loss of life was minimal.
10. Eyewitnesses of the event will not soon forget the sight.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the subject once and the predicate twice.

Example 1. Pliny the Younger, a Roman writer and statesman, wrote descriptions of volcanoes.

11. Have you read this article on central Italy and Mount Vesuvius?
12. Pliny the Younger was the first to describe the various stages of an eruption.
13. In addition, Pliny described the height of the cloud of ash above Vesuvius as well as the effects of the eruption on people.
14. Mount Vesuvius is situated a little over five kilometers northwest of Pompeii.
15. Part of the caldera around Vesuvius, known as the Somma Rim, was formed approximately 17,000 years ago.