

Collective Nouns

Introduction

1) A collective noun is used to refer to an entire group of people, animals, or things. Therefore it includes more than one member.

*My **family** is very big.*

2) Collective nouns can refer to:

a) people.

family, class, committee, staff etc.

b) animals.

a pack of dogs, a swarm of flies, a herd of horses, a litter of puppies etc.

c) things.

pack, set, bunch, stack etc.

When the members within one group behave in the same manner, they are part of a collective noun, thus this noun becomes singular and requires a singular verb.

*Every day **the football team** follows its coach out to the field for practice.*

When the members are acting as individuals, the collective noun is plural and requires a plural verb. In many cases, it may sound more natural to make the subject plural in form by adding words like *members, mates etc.*

*After the practice, **the team(mates)** shower, change into their casual clothes, and head to their homes.*

Short Story Dialogue

– *I had the most amazing time backpacking with my **classmates!***

– *Did you like Canada and its nature?*

– *I sure did! **A range of mountains** was magical. And the animals I've seen! **A flutter of tiny butterflies, a herd of deer, and a family of beavers!***

– *Yeah, it's not something you can see here.*

– *True. I wanted to create some long-lasting memories of this experience. So I tried taking a **sequence of photos**: not disturbing the wildlife and just observing it from the safe distance.*

Independent Practice

1) Form collective nouns.

a. a band of	1. sheep
b. a flock of	2. ants
c. a team of	3. stars
d. a pair of	4. singers
e. an army of	5. flowers
f. a bouquet of	6. players
g. a hive of	7. lions
h. a pride of	8. musicians
i. a choir of	9. bees
j. a galaxy of	10. shoes

Independent Practice: Answers

1) Form collective nouns.

a. a band of	8. musicians
b. a flock of	1. sheep
c. a team of	6. players
d. a pair of	10. shoes
e. an army of	2. ants
f. a bouquet of	5. flowers
g. a hive of	9. bees
h. a pride of	7. lions
i. a choir of	4. singers
j. a galaxy of	3. stars