

What is Collective Noun?

Collective noun is a noun which describes a group of things or people. It means collective noun is a single noun that is made up of more than one thing or person or etc.

For examples: family, group, herd, team.

Collective Noun Singular or Plural?

Generally, we can say that collective nouns can be singular or plural. It depends on the context of the sentence.

- If the members of a group act together as a unit or a whole, we use a singular verb. (we can also say that if we or speakers want to emphasize the group as a whole, we use singular verb in this situation.)

- If the members of a group stop acting together as a unit or a whole and act as individuals, it is better to use a plural verb.

(we can also say that if we or speakers want to emphasize the individuals in a group rather than regarding the group as a whole, we use plural verb in this situation)

ATTENTION:

If you are not sure whether to use a singular or a plural verb with a collective noun in your writing or speaking, you can put “members of” before the collective noun and then use a plural verb.

Common Collective Noun List;

Collective Noun

Meaning

Board	the group of people who are responsible for controlling and organizing a company or organization.
Bunch	1. a number of things of the same type fastened together or in a close group. 2. a group of people.
Choir	a group of people who sing together.
Class	a group of students who are taught together at school, college, or university.
Committee	a small group of people chosen to represent a larger organization and either make decisions or collect information for it.
Crew	a group of people who work together, especially all those who work on and operate a ship, aircraft, etc.
Crowd	a large group of people who have come together.
Flock	a group of sheep, goats, or birds.
Group	a number of people or things that are put together or considered as a unit
Gang	1. a group of criminals who work together. 2. a group of young people, especially young men, who spend time together, often fighting with other groups and behaving badly. 3. a group of friends. 4. a group of workers or prisoners who work together.
Heap	an untidy pile or mass of things.
Herd	a large group of animals of the same type that live and feed together.

Mob	1. a large, angry crowd, especially one that could easily become violent. 2. a group of people who are friends or who are similar in some way.
Orchestra	a large group of musicians who play many different instruments together and are led by a conductor.
Pack	1. a group of animals, such as dogs, that live and/or hunt together. 2. a group, set, or collection of something.
Panel	a small group of people chosen to give advice, make a decision, or publicly discuss their opinions as entertainment.
Pile	a mass of something that has been placed somewhere.
Series	a number of similar or related events or things, one following another.
Set	a group of similar things that belong together in some way.
Shoal	a large number of fish swimming as a group.
Shower	a lot of small objects or drops of liquid coming through the air.
Stack	a pile of things arranged one on top of another.
Staff	the group of people who work for an organization.
Swarm	1. a large group of insects all moving together. 2. a large group of people all moving together.
Team	a number of people or animals who do something together as a group.
Troupe	a group of performers such as singers or dancers who work and travel together.