

Collective Nouns

What are collective nouns?

Collective nouns are words for single things that are made up of more than one person, animal, place, thing, or idea. You cannot have a team without individual members; even so, we discuss a team as a single entity.

Examples:

Our **class** took a field trip to the natural history museum.

The **herd** of bison ran across the prairie, leaving a massive dust cloud in its wake.

We waited anxiously for the **jury** to come to a verdict.

This year's basketball **team** includes three players who are over six feet tall.

Napoleon's **army** was finally defeated at Waterloo.

The town **council** has approved plans to create a new park.

He comes from a huge **family**: he's the oldest of eleven kids.

The rock **group** has been on tour for months.

Everyone in the **audience** applauded loudly when Elvis appeared on stage.

Exercise:

Choose the collective nouns in the sentence.

1. Keys, marbles, and rubber bands were just a few of the things in the pile of objects in his drawer.
2. The boys decided to join the navy after graduation.
3. After the performance, all the actors joined hands and bowed toward the audience.
4. The team celebrated heartily after scoring a winning goal.
5. Most of the students on the council are also on the honor roll.
6. The boat's crew worked all night to stop the leak.
7. The talent show featured several individual performers, along with three bands.
8. Our extended family includes great-grandparents and second cousins.
9. All of the students are attending a school assembly on Friday.
10. The senate will be voting on three education funding bills tomorrow.
11. The teachers and administrators held a meeting in the faculty office.
12. The sheep clustered in a tight flock to ward off the cold weather.

How do we identify collective nouns?

- Figure out what the nouns are in the sentences.
- Identify whether they are individual units or referred to as a group.

- Memorize

COMMON NOUN VERSUS COLLECTIVE NOUN

Common Noun denotes a class of objects or a concept as opposed to a particular individual.

Common Noun can refer to people, places or things in general.

Common Nouns can be either singular or plural.

Common Nouns refers to individual units.

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Collective Noun denotes a group of people, animals, objects or concepts as a single entity.

Collective Nouns refer to a group made of people or things.

Collective Nouns are commonly treated as singular.

Collective Nouns are a collection that can be treated as individual units.