

Collective nouns

A collective noun denotes a collection of people, things, animals, emotions or concepts considered as a single whole.

A collective noun is usually treated as singular.

Consider the expression 'a committee of members'

There can be several members but only one committee. In this case, 'members' is a common noun whereas 'committee' is a collective noun.

More examples of collective nouns are given below.

A bunch of grapes or keys

A gang of bandits

A class of students

An army of soldiers

A hive of bees

A fleet of ships

A constellation of stars or galaxy

An archipelago of islands

A bevy of girls

A crowd of people

A mob of people

A swarm of flies

A jury of judges

A herd of cattle

A flock of sheep

A team of players

Examples are given below.

This class consists of fifty students.

The jury was unanimous in its decision.

The crowd was too large to be controlled by the police.

The mob attacked the police station.

The Australian cricket team is scheduled to visit India in July.

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A bevy of girls entered the garden.

A bunch of keys was lying on the table.

You can find a swarm of flies hovering over uncovered trays of sweets.

The crew of sailors controlled the ship in the stormy sea.