

Collective Nouns - 45A Remote Learning

Nouns are words naming people, animals, places and things.

There is a special type of noun called a **collective noun** that is used to name and describe a group of people, animals or things.

For example, the word 'orchestra' is a collective noun because one orchestra is made up of many musicians: there are many parts to the whole.

What is a collective noun? What is a collective noun?

Here are some examples of different common collective nouns for people, animals and things.

People	Animals	Things
A band of musicians	An army of ants	A bouquet of flowers
A board of directors	A flock of sheep	A bunch of flowers
A choir of singers	A herd of deer	A fleet of ships
A crowd of people	A hive of bees	A forest of trees
A gang of thieves	A litter of puppies	A galaxy of stars
A pack of thieves	A pack of wolves	A pack of lies
A panel of experts	A swarm of locusts	A range of mountains
A troupe of dancers	A pride of lions	A wad of notes

For some of the more obscure **collective nouns**, particularly those relating to animals, there is an historical story behind the noun and its usage.

Animals (continued)	
Collective noun	Origin
A cackle of hyenas	The manic 'laughing' of hyenas was often described as a cackle. When large numbers of hyenas gather, this cackle happens often as it is the way that hyenas communicate.
A shrewdness of apes	Shrewdness refers to being clever or intelligent. This collective noun is appropriate as apes are like humans and are known to make simple tools to help them perform tasks more easily.
A raft of otters	Many otters floating together on water was said to look like a raft. This term has since been used to describe groups of many aquatic animals such as ducks and puffins.
A murder of crows	This term has been used since the 1400s. As crows fed on dead animals they were said to be an omen of death and hence they were referred to as a murder when they were seen in large groups.

A few more..		
A wake of vultures	A battery of barracudas	A ambush of tigers
A muster of storks	A parliament of owls	A coterie of prairie dogs
A skulk of foxes	A charm of hummingbirds	A memory of elephants
A bale of turtles	A business of ferrets	A stubbornness of rhinoceroses
	A rhumba of rattlesnakes	

Collective Nouns

Your task...

Part 1:

Choose 6 of the animal collective nouns above that grab your attention.

For each of these, make a prediction in your Remote Learning Book as to how that particular collective noun came to be.

For example, for a **kaleidoscope of butterflies** you might record:

'I predict this collective noun may have originated because butterflies are very colourful and when in a large group this looks like a kaleidoscope.'

After you have made your predictions, research the actual origin of each collective noun. Were you correct? If not, record the correct origin in your Spelling book.

Part 2:

Next, we want to see you use your newfound knowledge of collective nouns to make up some of your own.

Create 6 new, creative and imaginative collective nouns for any different animals you want. Include a detailed description explaining 'the origin' for your particular collective nouns.

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