ESOL E2 – Collective nouns - people

# of 21 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on collective nouns.

This session will cover:

* Collective nouns.
* Common collective nouns for groups of people.

# of 21 – Collective nouns

Collective nouns, also known as group nouns, are used to refer to groups of people, animals or things.

We often use the form ‘a group of \_\_\_\_\_\_’.

For example:

* A *gaggle of* ***geese***
* A *bunch of* ***flowers***
* A *fleet of* ***ships***

However, many collective nouns can also stand alone.

For example:

* The **crowd** cheered
* The **audience** clapped
* I shuffled the **deck**

# of 21 – Singular or plural

We can use collective nouns as either singular nouns or plural nouns.

There are around 200 collective nouns in English, and it is very difficult to learn them all. Instead, it is better to slowly build up your vocabulary. As you come across new collective nouns, make a note of them.

Compare these two sentences.

1. My **family** is so important to me.

In the sentence, the collective noun ‘family’ is used as a singular noun. We are referring to the family as a single thing.

1. My **family** are always teasing me!

In this sentence, the collective noun ‘family’ is used as a plural noun. We are referring to the family as a group of individuals.

# of 21 – Collective nouns for groups of people

The following are the collective noun for each group of people. You will be tested on these in the following questions, so make sure you take the time to learn them now.

* Athletes – a **team** of athletes
* Churchgoers – a **congregation** of churchgoers
* Dancers – a **troupe** of dancers
* Directors – a **board** of directors
* Listeners – a **audience** of listeners
* Sailors – a **crew** of sailors
* Singers – a **choir** of singers
* Students – a **class** of students

# of 21 – Question 1

What is the collective noun for a group of singers?

1. Audience
2. Crew
3. Choir
4. Class

Answer: The collective noun for a group of singers is “**choir**”.

# of 21 – Question 2

What is the collective noun for a group of churchgoers?

1. Team
2. Congregation
3. Choir
4. Class

Answer: The collective noun for a group of churchgoers is “**congregation**”.

# of 21 – Question 3

What is the collective noun for a group of directors?

1. Team
2. Congregation
3. Troupe
4. Board

Answer: The collective noun for a group of directors is “**board**”.

# of 21 – Question 4

What is the collective noun for a group of athletes?

1. Team
2. Board
3. Audience
4. Class

Answer: The collective noun for a group of athletes is “**team**”.

# of 21 – Question 5

What is the collective noun for a group of students?

1. Board
2. Audience
3. Crew
4. Class

Answer: The collective noun for a group of students is “**class**”.

# of 21 – Question 6

What is the collective noun for a group of listeners?

1. Team
2. Troupe
3. Audience
4. Crew

Answer: The collective noun for a group of listeners is “**audience**”.

# of 21 – Question 7

What is the collective noun for a group of dancers?

1. Troupe
2. Board
3. Audience
4. Class

Answer: The collective noun for a group of dancers is “**troupe**”.

# of 21 – Question 8

What is the collective noun for a group of sailors?

1. Team
2. Board
3. Audience
4. Crew

Answer: The collective noun for a group of sailors is “**crew**”.

# of 21 – Question 9

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The vicar preached to the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. athletes
2. churchgoers
3. singers
4. students

Answer: The sentence should read “The vicar preached to the congregation of **churchgoers**.”

# of 21 – Question 10

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The teacher gave the whole class of \_\_\_\_\_\_ a detention.

1. dancers
2. directors
3. listeners
4. students

Answer: The sentence should read “The teacher gave the whole class of **students** a detention.”

# of 21 – Question 11

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The choir of \_\_\_\_\_ sounded like angels!”

1. athletes
2. dancers
3. sailors
4. singers

Answer: The sentence should read “The choir of **singers** sounded like angels!”

# of 21 – Question 12

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The team of \_\_\_\_\_\_ trained hard for the competition.”

1. athletes
2. directors
3. listeners
4. students

Answer: The sentence should read “The team of **athletes** trained hard for the competition.”

# of 21 – Question 13

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The board of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet once a month.”

1. athletes
2. churchgoers
3. dancers
4. directors

Answer: The sentence should read “The board of **directors** meet once a month.”

# of 21 – Question 14

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The troupe of \_\_\_\_\_ were the stars of the show.”

1. dancers
2. directors
3. listeners
4. students

Answer: The sentence should read “The troupe of **dancers** were the stars of the show.”

# of 21 – Question 15

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The crew of \_\_\_\_\_\_ were close friends.”

1. athletes
2. sailors
3. singers
4. students

Answer: The sentence should read “The crew of **sailors** were close friends.”

# of 21 – Question 16

Fill in the blank in the sentence below by using the numbered words.

“The audience of \_\_\_\_ were enthralled by the story.”

1. churchgoers
2. directors
3. listeners
4. sailors

Answer: The sentence should read “The audience of **listeners** were enthralled by the story.”

# of 21 – End

# Well done. You have completed this session on collective nouns.

# We have covered:

* Collective nouns
* Common collective nouns for groups of people

# If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, speak to your tutor for more help.