

Grammar Review

Collective Nouns

A collective noun is a word used to describe a group of individual things. E.g. **a team** is a group of people all working together on a project with the same goals.

Collective nouns can be either singular or plural and this affects the verb formation and pronouns.

Collective nouns are singular when everybody/thing within that collective group works as one single unit and does the same action. E.g. **the team attends a meeting** (all members of the team are doing the same activity, attending the meeting).

Typical collective nouns that are singular are;

- ⇒ Everybody
- ⇒ Everyone
- ⇒ Nobody
- ⇒ No one
- ⇒ Companies
- ⇒ Acronym organisations

BE AWARE



The committee disagrees:
Everybody disagrees unanimously

The committee disagree: The majority,
not everybody disagrees

Collective nouns are plural when everybody/thing within that collective group is working on something individually and doing something different. E.g. **the class wait for their teacher** (all the students in the class are doing different activities, such as reading, doing homework or chatting, whilst waiting for their teacher).

Typical collective nouns that are plural are;

- ⇒ Police

Every noun will have its own collective word. You simply need to learn each collective noun.



American English speakers often use singular form with collective nouns



British English speakers often use plural form with collective nouns

PRONUNCIATION

