

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

USING COLLECTIVE NOUNS

A collective noun usually takes a singular verb when the collective noun is considered to be only one unit.

There are occasions when a collective noun requires a plural verb. When each individual of a collection of group acts separately, a plural verb is used.

1. A herd of cattle (stand, stands) near the gate.
2. The crew (is, are) at work on the bridge.
3. A school of fishes (was, were) beside the boat.
4. The team (was putting, were putting) on their shirts.
5. The crowd, angry with the umpire, (is, are) on their feet.
6. Katherine's family (is, are) going away on Saturday.
7. The jury (was, were) in their place.
8. The new class (was, were) in its place.
9. The group of youngsters (shout, shouts) at each newcomer.
10. The company (is raising, are raising) its requirements for applicants.
11. A committee from the state department (was meeting, were meeting) with us.
12. Wait! The choir (is singing, are singing) the last hymn.
13. The audience (was enthusiastic, were enthusiastic) and responded warmly.
14. (Does, Do) your team of boys plan to participate in this race?
15. The flock (fly, flies) high over these marshes.
16. The band from Lee High School (is, are) one of the best.
17. The army no longer (march, marches) on its stomach.
18. The gang of bandits often (rush, rushes) down upon the settlers.
19. Over the city (roam, roams) the horde of wild men!
20. The swarm (settle, settles) on the limbs of nearby trees.