

Collective Nouns

Some groups of things have special names. For example, a group of **elephants** is called a **herd**. You can use collective nouns to make your writing more interesting. Instead of writing 'He saw a lot of ships' you could write 'He saw an armada of ships'.

Task One

Choose a word from the list below to go in each space.

swarm	pride	litter	forest	flight
school	flock	gaggle	skulk	plague

- A _____ of sheep. A _____ of lions.
A _____ of geese. A _____ of whales.
A _____ of trees. A _____ of pups.
A _____ of bees. A _____ of locusts.
A _____ of doves. A _____ of foxes.

Task Two

Match the groups of things that can have the same collective noun and say what that collective noun is. You should get four groups of three things.

wolves	elephants	players	geese	birds	oxen
sheep	horses	cards	buffaloes	cattle	hounds

Task Three

Collective nouns are often connected to a characteristic of the group of things they refer to. For example the word **skulk** means 'to move or conceal oneself stealthily'. (Check back to task one to see which animal you can have a skulk of).

Invent your own collective nouns for some of the groups of things below. Think about how the things move, act or how people respond to them. For example you could have a **chatter of children** or a **crawl of babies**.

artists	ghosts	ants	exams	stars
aircraft	weeds	homework	hedgehogs	pigs
authors	rhinos	computers	snakes	cats
photographers	slugs	teachers	grandparents	surfers