

10 Collective Nouns



Word Classes

A collective noun is a word that names a group of the same things. They can be groups of people or animals or things.

Examples : A **flock** of sheep A **bunch** of flowers A **crowd** of people A **pair** of shoes

When people don't know the right collective noun to use, they may use a phrase such as *a lot*. You should make an effort to find out the correct collective noun for the group you are writing about. Some collective nouns can be used for a number of groups.

Examples : *bunch* - keys, flowers, grapes *flock* - sheep, goats, birds *pair* - shoes, socks, scissors

A Complete the Group

1 Complete the following with the correct collective noun for the group.

- a) a of dogs
- b) a of kittens
- c) a of students
- d) a of soldiers
- e) a of musicians
- f) a of eggs
- g) a of sticks
- h) a of stairs
- i) a of gun shots
- j) a of animals

B Fill the Space

1 Place a collective noun in the appropriate space.

- a) A of people lined up at the ticket office.
- b) Mum always makes a of muffins for Sunday lunch.
- c) The watched the hypnotist in fascination.
- d) A of monkeys swung through the branches.
- e) At sunset a of lions came to the waterhole.
- f) Our gathered on the couch to watch the rugby.

C Bartering

1 Circle the collective nouns in the following paragraph. There are five to find.

A fleet of whaling ships anchored in the Bay of Islands and the whalers and sealers attempted to establish a town from where they could harvest the rich resources in New Zealand waters. In the Bay the crews were able to bargain for fresh supplies by offering bundles of blankets and handfuls of nails for flax and food.



2 Explain the meaning of the five collective nouns as they are used in the paragraph.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)



The colon (:) is used as a mark of introduction. It may introduce a list of items, an explanation, or a quotation.

Used to introduce a list

Example : *In my desk I have three books : a dictionary, an atlas and an exercise book for science.*

Used to introduce a sentence or phrase that explains or gives further information about a previous statement

Example : *What he says is true : without an education you are lost.*

Used to introduce a long quotation or speech

Example : *Addressing the crowd, the Prime Minister said : "It is my pleasure . . ."*

A Colons Before Lists

- 1 Complete these sentences. Each one requires a colon to be placed before a list.
 - a) In my room I have three favourite things
.....
.....
 - b) For us to keep healthy, our food should include the following
.....
 - c) My friend has two faults
.....
.....
 - d) This recipe calls for a variety of fish
.....
.....

B In the Right Place

- 1 Place a colon in the correct position.
 - a) The play starts this way the fog machine starts, the thunder sounds play, the curtain goes up and the actors run onto the stage.
 - b) You will need to bring two things to the barbeque a salad and some meat.
 - c) All crew members should have the following equipment a life jacket, a compass, wet-weather gear and a set of dry clothes.
 - d) The exam will take place under strict conditions no talking, no eating, no passing notes and no calculators.
 - e) This is my favourite quote minds are like parachutes - they only function when open.

C My Favourite Thing

- 1 This poem, written by a student, uses colons in appropriate places.
Write a poem of your own about something that you enjoy doing, using the same format.

Snowboarding is my favourite thing :

Back-to-back winters followed by spring,

Whiteouts, powder turn, jib, back nine,

Quarter and halfpipe, gnarly mountain line,

Pros and grommets, crews to ride.

Quick off the lip, it's all a good vibe,

Snowboarders' rule : Don't have a plan,

Freestyle it, stoked on each other, everyone can.

42 Antonym



Language Skills

An antonym is a word having the opposite meaning to another.

Examples : *strong - weak* *take - give*

Sometimes the simple addition of a prefix to a word can reverse its meaning.

Examples : *appear - disappear* *fertile - infertile*



A Circle One

1 Circle the antonym of each headword.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|-----------|----------|
| a) ancestor | - | descendant | disciple | dictator |
| b) captivate | - | rebuke | relieve | repulse |
| c) disperse | - | collide | collect | collude |
| d) superior | - | ingenious | informed | inferior |
| e) temporary | - | peripheral | permanent | perky |
| f) generous | - | masterly | mean | meak |
| g) loathe | - | love | like | leave |
| h) woeful | - | jaunty | jocular | joyful |
| i) stationary | - | manual | mobile | modern |
| j) profound | - | shallow | shiny | slow |

B Change the Meaning

1 Change these words to antonyms by adding a prefix to the beginning of the word. Each prefix is different.

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| a) approve | ..... |
| b) audible | ..... |
| c) aware | ..... |
| d) legal | ..... |
| e) modest | ..... |
| f) noble | ..... |
| g) normal | ..... |
| h) regular | ..... |
| i) sense | ..... |
| j) behave | ..... |

C Changing Words

1 Rewrite each sentence changing the underlined words to their antonyms. Circle the antonyms you have used.

- a) The tall soldier went to the entrance of the movie theatre.

.....

- b) The humble man concealed the bravery medal he had been given.

.....

- c) A faint cry was heard from the bush-covered mountain.

.....

- d) The rugby team faced defeat if their players were inferior in strength.

.....

- e) As a temporary measure the road remained closed to traffic.

.....

- f) The stubborn dog gnawed vigorously at the bone.

.....

64 Syllabification



Dictionary Skills

Syllabification (syl-lab-i-fi-ca-tion) is the breaking up of a word into smaller parts. Each syllable contains one vowel sound and is one simple word or part of a longer word. Breaking longer words into syllables is an aid to better spelling.

Examples : *cat* - one syllable
 cat / nap - two syllables
 cat / a / logue - three syllables

A One, Two, Three

1 From these one-syllable words, make a two-syllable and then a three-syllable word. Separate each syllable as shown.

- a) gloss [one syllable]
 gloss / y
 gloss / a / ry
 [two syllables]
 [three syllables]
- b) land [one syllable]
 [two syllables]
 [three syllables]
- c) post [one syllable]
 [two syllables]
 [three syllables]

B How Many?

1 Label each of the following words with **1**, **2**, **3** or **4** depending on the number of syllables. Place a slash between the syllables.

- a) l e n g t h w a y s
 b) m a n o e u v r e
 c) n e g a t i v e
 d) g a w k
 e) i m p e t u o u s
 f) m o t o r w a y
 g) n a u g h t
 h) n a t u r a l i s t
 i) o p e r a t e
 j) p h e n o m e n o n



C First or Second Syllable?

1 Every word in this list has at least two syllables. Some of them are accented on the first syllable and others on the second. Place them in the appropriate box.

daughter	disturb	humane	lament	laboratory
immense	carnage	hatred	nutrition	illustrate
element	arduous	mechanic	obese	peculiar
marine	flavour	grateful	javelin	kilogram

First-Syllable Accent

Second-Syllable Accent

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Kiwis are known to be inventive and skilful in developing new ideas in many fields, not only in tourism activities but in aviation, science and everyday life. A popular saying states 'Kiwis can do anything with a piece of number eight wire'.

Referee whistle - William Attack



New Zealand rugby referee William Attack became the first sports referee in the world to use a whistle to stop a game in 1884 using a dog whistle.

The referee's whistle is now the norm for umpiring, but until Attack came out on the ground whistling, referees had to raise their voices to control games.

Atomic whizz - Ernest Rutherford

New Zealand scientist and Nobel Prize winner Ernest Rutherford was the first in the world to split the atom in 1919.

During his lifetime, Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937) was responsible for a series of discoveries in the fields of radioactivity and nuclear physics that helped shape modern science. Einstein described Rutherford as "the man who tunnelled into the very material of God".



Eggbeaters & hairpins - Ernest Godward



Ernest Godward - who was British born but emigrated to New Zealand in his teens - was a prolific inventor. His many inventions included an eggbeater, a burglar-proof window and, in 1901, the world's first spiral hairpin - an international success that allowed him to set up as a full-time inventor.

Godward is probably best known for his 'economiser' - the Godward Vaporiser was an early form of carburettor that allowed vehicles to run on kerosene, gasoline oil, fuel oil, petrol and even bootleg liquor. He invented 72 models of the economiser, and by the 1930s was recognised as the world's leading authority on the internal combustion engine.

Jet-boat - William Hamilton

As a small boy, William Hamilton had dreamed of a boat that would carry him up New Zealand's swift flowing rivers. His dream became reality with the 1954 development of a revolutionary new style of boating - the world's first propellerless boat. Since then, the Hamilton Jet has been the means to explore and access waterways all over the world.

Sir William Hamilton went on to invent the hay lift, an advanced air compressor, a machine to smooth ice on skating ponds, and the water sprinkler amongst other things.



Bungy dare-devil - AJ Hackett

New Zealand entrepreneur and daredevil AJ Hackett was inspired to create bungy jumping after learning of a traditional practice in Vanuatu where participants leap from wooden structures attached to vines.



Hackett devised a system of plaited elastic bands, and publicised his bungy style by jumping from the Eiffel Tower in 1987. He opened the world's first commercial bungy site in 1988, and New Zealand has become the home of the bungy with more than 100,000 visitors taking the plunge each year.

Blokart sailor - Paul Beckett

Created, designed and manufactured in New Zealand, the blokart is a three-wheeled land yacht invented by New Zealander Paul Beckett.

Beckett set out to design a wind-powered toy that was portable and universally easy to use. The blokart can be folded down into a lightweight, suitcase-sized bag, and goes anywhere from beaches to parking lots to sport grounds. Blokarts can also travel on ice, and have been used to cross the Gobi Desert.





Study questions or key questions are those that point you towards information that is useful for your research. It is important that the questions are able to be answered with more than a 'yes' or 'no'. 'Closed' questions provide very little usable research information.

Example : *Did they travel by canoes?* Yes (closed question)

To research a topic, 'open' questions need to be asked. These questions require in-depth research by the student or group.

Example : *What type of canoe was used?* (open question)

When deciding on study questions it is useful to begin each question with WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW or WHY.

A What You Need to Know

1 For the research on *Māori Migration to Aotearoa* the key questions could be:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| - WHO was Kupe? | - WHO were the tribes |
| - WHAT was the purpose of leaving Hawaiki? | - WHERE did they settle? |
| - WHERE was Hawaiki? | - WHAT size were the vessels? |
| - WHEN did the voyage take place? | - WHERE did the canoes land? |
| - WHY Aotearoa? | - HOW did they find their way? |

2 To plan your study questions fill in this chart. You could end up with more questions than you need.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?	WHO	
	WHAT	
	WHERE	
	WHEN	
	HOW	
	WHY	