

Collective Nouns and Compound Nouns

The singular form of a *collective noun* names a group.

EXAMPLES herd squad fleet

A *compound noun* consists of two or more words that together name a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. A compound noun may be written as one word, as separate words, or as a hyphenated word.

EXAMPLES courthouse Vietnam Memorial sister-in-law

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, classify each underlined noun as collective or compound. Above each, write *COLL* for *collective* or *COMP* for *compound*.

Example 1. What does a ^{COMP}chief executive of a professional sports team do?

- In 1988, Susan O'Malley became one of the few women in North America who ran a major sports team.
- The National Basketball Association (NBA) is a major professional sports league.
- O'Malley was hired as the president of the Washington Bullets, an NBA franchise, now known as the Washington Wizards.
- The owner of the team, Abe Pollin, said that he offered O'Malley the job because of her outstanding work and her brainpower.
- As a college student, O'Malley ran a group that delivered balloons.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, underline the collective nouns once and the compound nouns twice.

Example 1. My father-in-law helped the brigade fight the fire at the feed mill.

- The vice-president introduced her family to the committee.
- Edith, who is my partner on the debate team, uses push buttons to control her wheelchair.
- A gaggle of Canada geese landed in the courtyard in front of city hall.
- Congress is considering a bill to lower income taxes.
- That crowd of people has lined up to buy season tickets.
- My stepbrother is a systems engineer.
- Mom asked how much the bushel of corn cost.
- The reporter announced that the secretary of state had just arrived at the press conference.
- The pack of wolves descended from the rocky hill.
- Lisa and Peter have just built a home in the backyard.