

Fossilization Activity #1

5th Grade

Focus:

Subject/Verb Agreement, irregular plural noun “people” and collective nouns.

Examples of the error:

The members of the band **is** tuning their own instruments.

I want to go to the park to see the children that **is** playing soccer.

The people **is** happy.

The kids in the class **is** singing songs.

The class **is** writing their own stories.

Fossilization Activity

Teacher Notes:

A collective nouns is a name for a group of people or things. Collective nouns usually take a singular verb, because they appear singular in form, but they sometimes take a plural verb. Collective nouns are expressed with the collective noun + of + plural noun. For examples, I saw a litter of puppies. I listened to a choir of singers.

- Another word this is confusing for Spanish speakers learning English is the word “people.” In Spanish, la gente is singular. In English, people is plural. Errors can be frequent with this word. It is an irregular plural noun. It does not have an s on the end, which makes students think it’s singular, but the word people represents more than one person. The word people is always followed by a plural verb.

Examples of collective nouns: family, class, pack, bouquet, pair, flock, board, choir, class, group, swarm, bunch, pack, set, team, audience

Many time, students make a collective noun singular when it needs to be plural. The verb after the collective noun needs to be plural if all the people or things in the group are doing something independently of the other.

Sometimes students incorrectly use a plural verb when the collective noun is meant to be singular. For example, they think that because a team is made up of many players that it should always be followed by a plural verb.

Ex: The cast have been practicing their parts for the play. - Each cast member is practicing their own part.

When the people or things in the group are working as a unit, or being referred to as a unit, then the collective noun is followed by a singular verb.

Ex: The cast has celebrated the play. The cast is large.

Instructions:

1. Explain to students that today they will be learning about collective nouns. Share with them the definition of a collective noun and draw their attention to the poster. (use the notes above to help you prepare a definition and explanation of collective nouns.
2. Show the students the collective noun video- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_HgpgPfNBA, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zijGflzT5S>
3. Show the slides with the sentence on them. Have students raise their hand and explain the error in the sentence and how to correct it.
4. Hand out the worksheet for students to complete independently.

Singular Noun	Collective Noun
Singer	choir
bird	flock
musician	Orchestra
dancer	group
player	team
bee	hive
sheep	flock
puppy	litter

Collective Noun Practice

Directions: Raise your hand to identify, explain and correct the error. Some sentences will be correct.

1. The people is happy to be at the party.
2. The band is tuning their own instruments.
3. I want to go to the park to see the team who is playing.
4. The team are going to the state conference.
5. The herd is running away.
6. We went to the farm and saw that the herd were eating hay.
7. The class are listening to the teacher.
8. The cast has been practicing their lines by themselves.

Name_____

Date_____

Directions: Choose and write the correct form of the verb on the blank line to complete the sentence.

1. The flock _____ in every direction. (fly/flies)
2. I went to the store and the people _____ waiting in line. (was/were)
3. The team _____ practicing their drills independently. (is/are)
4. The flock _____ flying South. (is/are)
5. The wolf pack _____ as a group. (hunt/hunts)
6. The team got on the bus and _____ driving to Texas. (is/are)
7. In the field, the pack _____ themselves. (clean, cleans)
8. The high school orchestra often _____ at the football game. (play, plays).
9. The high school orchestra often _____ their parts at their homes. (play, plays)
10. You can tell that the choir _____ singing their favorite song. (is/are)