Collective Nouns

CONTENTS

People

Actors = a cast, a company

Angels = a choir, a chorus, a host

Architects = an argument, a confusion

Arsonists = a conflagration

Bakers = a tabernacle

Beggars = a coster, a guild, a parliament

Bishops = a bench

Brewers = a feast

Bureaucrats = a shuffle

Clergy = an assembly, a convocation

Cooks = a hastiness, a temperance

Divers = a bubble

Economists = a clashing, a deficit, a recession

Editors = an erudition

Experts = a panel

Fairies = a charm

Flautists = a phalanx

Friends = a circle, a clique

Generals = a glitter

Ghosts = a fright

Gods = a pantheon

Historians = an argumentation

Horsemen = a cavalcade

Judges = a bench

Kings = a dynasty

Knights = a banner

Lawyers = an eloquence, a huddle

Linguists = a babble

Mothers = a consternation

Motorcyclists = a clutch

Mourners = a cortege

Musicians = a band

Nuns = a convent, a flap, a murmur, a superfluity

Painters = an illusion, a madder, a misbelieving

People = a clique, a crowd

Pipers = a poverty

Poets = an obscurity

Politicians = an equivocation

Priests = a pontification, a prudence

Professors = a pomposity

Runners = a field

Sailors = a crew, a deck

Saints = a communion

Soldiers = a brigade, a company, a division, a draught, a muster, a platoon

Tailors = a disguising

Thieves = a den, a gang, a mob, a skulk

Tourists = a flock

Typists = a pool

Widows = an ambush

Wives = an impatience

Wizards = an argument

Worshippers = a sect

Writers = a worship

Mammals

Antelopes = a herd

Apes = a shrewdness

Baboons = a troop, a flange

Badgers = a cete

Bats = a cloud, a colony

Bears = a sleuth, a sloth

Beavers = a colony, a family

Buffalo = a gang, an obstinacy

Camels = a caravan, a flock, a train

Cats = a clowder, a destruction, a pounce

Cattle / cows = a drove, a herd, a kine

Cheetah = a coalition

Deer = a herd, a bevy

Dogs = a cowardice, a cry, a kennel, a leash, a pack

Donkeys = a drove, a herd, a pace

Elephants = a herd, a memory

Elk = a gang

Ferrets = a business, a cast

Foxes = an earth, a lead, a leash, a skulk, a troop

Giraffes = a corps, a totter, a tower

Goats = a tribe, a trip

Gorillas = a band, a troop

Hares = a down, a husk

Hedgehogs = an array

Hippos = a bloat

Horses = a harras, a rag, a string, a stud, a team

Hyenas = a cackle, a clan

Kangaroos = a mob, a troop

Kittens = a kindle, a litter, an intrigue

Leopards = a leap

Lions = a pride, a sault, a troop

Mice = a mischief

Moles = a labour

Monkeys = a barrel, a troop

Mules = a barren, a pack, a rake, a span

Otters = a bevy, a family, a raft, a ramp

Oxen = a team, a yoke

Pigs = a drift, a drove, a passel, a sounder, a team

Porcupines = a prickle

Puppies = a litter

Rabbits = a colony, a nest, a warren

Raccoons = a gaze

Rats = a colony, a pack, a plague, a swarm

Reindeer = a herd

Rhinos = a crash

Sheep = a drove, a flock, a herd

Squirrels = a dray, a scurry

Stoats = a pack, a trip

Tigers = an ambush, a streak

Unicorns = a blessing

Weasels = a colony, a gang, a pack

Wolves = a pack

Wombats = a wisdom

Zebras = a crossing, a dazzle, a herd, a stripe, a zeal

Birds

Albatrosses = a weight

Birds = a flight, a flock

Bitterns = a pretence

Blackbirds = a cloud, a grind

Bullfinches = a bellowing

Buzzards = a wake

Chickens = a brood, a peep

Chicks = a brood, a clutch, a chattering

Chiffchaffs = a confusion

Choughs = a chattering

Coots = a cover

Cormorants = a flight

Crows = a horde, a hover, a mob, a murder, a muster, a parcel, a parliament, a storytelling

Cuckoos = an asylum

Curlews = a curfew

Doves = a dole, a dule, a flight, a pitying

Ducks = a balding, a brace, a dopping, a flush, a paddling, a raft, a team

Eagles = a congress, a convocation

Falcons = a cast, a soar, a tower

Finches = a charm, a trembling, a trimming

Flamingos = a flamboyance, a stand

Geese = a gaggle, a nide, a skein, wedge

Goldfinches = a charm, a drum, a troubling

Goshawks = a flight

Grouse = a brace, a covey, a drumming, a lek, a pack

Gulls = a colony, a screech

Hawks = a boil, a cast, a lease, a kettle

Hens = a brood

Herons = a glean, a siege, a station

Jackdaws = a clattering, a train

Jays = a band, a party, a scold

Kingfishers = a concentration, a crown, a realm

Lapwings = a deceit, a desert

Larks = a bevy, an exaltation

Magpies = a gulp, a mischief, a murder, a tidings, a tittering

Nightingales = a watch

Owls = a parliament, a stare, a study, a wisdom

Parrots = a company, a pandemonium, a prattle

Partridges = a covey

Peacocks = a muster, an ostentation, a pride

Penguins = a colony, a creche, a huddle, a parcel

Pheasants = a bouquet, a brood, a covey, a nide, a nye

Pigeons = a band, a dropping, a kit, a loft, a passel, a stool

Quails = a bevy, a covey

Ravens = a conspiracy, a constable, an unkindness

Robins = a blush, a bobbin, a breast, a carol, a gift, a reliant, a riot, a rouge, a round, a ruby

Rooks = a building, a clamour, a parliament

Seagulls = a squabble

Skylarks = an exaltation

Sparrows = a quarrel, a ubiquity

Starlings = a murmuration

Swallows = a flight, a gulp, a kettle

Swans = a bank, a bevy, a gaggle, a gargle, a herd, a lamentation, a wedge, a whiteness

Terns = a committee

Thrushes = a hermitage, a mutation

Turkeys = a gang, a raffle, a rafter

Turtledoves = a dole, a pitying

Vultures = a committee, a venue, a vault, a wake

Widgeons = a company

Woodpeckers = a descent, a gatling

INSECTS

Insects

Ants = an army, a colony, a nest

Bees = a commonwealth, an erst, a flight, a grist, a hive, a hum, a swarm

Beetles = a colony, a swarm

Butterflies = a flight, a kaleidoscope, a rabble, a rainbow

Caterpillars = an army

Cockroaches = an intrusion

Dragonflies = a cluster

Flies = a business, a cloud, a hatch, a swarm

Gnats = a cloud, a horde, a swarm

Grasshoppers = a cloud, a cluster

Hornets = a bike, a nest

Insects = a flight, a horde, a plague, a rabble, a swarm

Ladybirds = a loveliness

Lice = a colony, a flock, an infestation

Locusts = a plague

Mosquitoes = a scourge

Moths = a flutter, a universe, a whisper

Scorpions = a bed, a clutter, a nest

Slugs = a cornucopia

Spiders = a cluster, a clutter

Stick insects = a bushel

Termites = a brood, a colony, a nest, a swarm

Wasps = a nest, a pail, a plague, a swarm

Worms = a bed, a bunch, a clat, a clew

Water Dwellers

Barracudas = a battery

Clams = a bed

Crabs = a cast

Dogfish = a troop

Dolphins = a pod

Eels = a bed, a fry, a swarm

Fish = a draft, a nest, a school, a shoal

Goldfish = a glint, a troubling

Herring = an army

Jellyfish = a brood, a fluther, a smack

Octopus = a consortium

Oysters = a bed

Rainbowfish = a party

Sardines = a family

Seahorses = a herd

Seals = a bob, a harem, a herd, a pod

Sharks = a shiver

Squid = a squad

Stingrays = a fever

Trout = a hover

Whales = a gam, a herd, a pod, a school

Objects / Nature / Miscellaneous

Aeroplanes = a flight, a squadron

Asteroids = a belt

Beads = a string

Bells = a carillon, a peal

Blankets = a swelter

Boats = a fleet, a flotilla

Cards = a deck, a pack

Clouds = a soufflé

Cutlery = a canteen, a set

Diamonds = a cluster

Emotions = a wash

Events = a chain

Flags = a flutter

Flowers = a bed, a bouquet, a nosegay

Footsteps = a patter

Furniture = a suite

Guns = an arsenal, a battery

Hills = an undulation

Icebergs = a drift

Information = a wealth

Islands = an archipelago, a chain, a group

Jewels = a cache

Knots = a cluster, a medusa

Lifts = a bank

Lorries = a convoy, a fleet

Money = a wad

Mountains = a range

Pearls = a rope

Reasons = a rainbow

Ribs = a rack

Riches = an embarrassment

Ships = an armada

Silk = a skein

Stairs = a flight

Stars = a cluster, a constellation, a galaxy

Trees = an avenue, a clump, a copse, a grove, a hanger, an orchard, a plantation, a roundel, a spinney, a stand, a thicket

Tubas = a tumult

Winnings = a purse

Words = a babble

Yesterdays = a yearning

Food

Apples = a bushel

Bananas = a bunch, a hand

Beans = a hill

Bread = a batch

Cakes = a batch

Donuts = a holiness

Drinks = a round

Eggs = a clutch, a tray

Flour = a boll

Grapes = a bunch, a cluster

Onions = a rope

Oranges = a pocket

Peas = a pod

Potatoes = a bushel

Salt = a lot

Sausages = a sizzle

Strawberries = a punnet

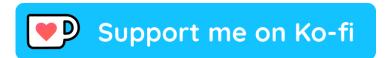Wheat = a sheaf

ENDNOTE

Bio:

This resource has been created by Matt Kendrick. Matt is a writer, editor and teacher based in the East Midlands, UK. His short fiction has been widely published both online and in print. He has been placed or listed in various writing competitions including Bath, Flash 500, the Oxford Flash Fiction Prize, Reflex and Leicester Writes. His work has been included on the Biffy 50 list for 2019-20, in Best Microfiction 2021, Best Small Fictions 2022 and the Wigleaf Top 50 list for 2022. He has also been nominated for Best of the Net and the Pushcart Prize.

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For links to other free resources, please visit my website: https://www.mattkendrick.co.uk/resources

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Information about my courses and editorial services can also be found on my website.

Support me on Ko-fi

As a workshop facilitator, I am committed to opening up writing opportunities to people from all backgrounds based on ability to write rather than ability to pay. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to finance pay-what-you-can and free spots exclusively from my own pocket. So, if you've downloaded this resource and are in a position to support narrowing the access gap to creative writing opportunities, I would be very grateful if you would consider buying me a virtual coffee*.

Any money donated to my Ko-fi page will be used to fund free and reduced-price places for my Write Beyond The Lightbulb courses, as well as to provide free editing and mentoring opportunities for low-income writers, and to support other opportunities that seek to level the playing field.