

Lesson Six: Collective Nouns

Forum

Activity One: Match List A with List B

List A

1. Kill two birds with one stone
2. On the ball
3. Cut corners
4. To hear something straight from the horse's mouth
5. Costs an arm and a leg
6. The last straw
7. Speak of the devil!
8. Feeling a bit under the weather

List B

- a. This means 'to do two things at the same time'.
- b. When someone understands the situation well.
- c. When something is done badly to save money.
- d. To hear something from the authoritative source.
- e. When something is very expensive.
- f. The final problem in a series of problems
- g. This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.
- h. Feeling ill.

Activity Two: Explain the following idiomatic expressions

1. the sting is in the tail
2. All asses wag their ears
3. Time hangs heavy on one's hands
4. To wrangle over an asses's shadow
5. A bird of ill-omen

6. A thorn in one's side
7. To hunt with the hounds and run with the hares
8. To be an old hand art
9. To be like a fish out of water
10. To pay an eye for an eye
11. To dog someone
12. every dog has his day
13. A broken reed
14. To lie at anchor
15. To be hand in glove with
16. To know something on one's fingers' tip
17. To keep one's hands above water
18. To set one's shoulder to the wheel
19. To see eye to eye with someone
20. By word of mouth
21. Two heads are better than one
22. To make an investment
23. To help a lame dog over a stile
24. To settle an account
25. To act like a snake on the grass
26. To do something in a twinkle of an eye
27. To have one's time up
28. To step in another's shoes
29. To number one's days.

Activity Three: Complete the following proverbs-

1. Early to bed and early to rise.....
2. Waste not.....

3. A stitch in time.....
4. When poverty comes in.....
5. prosperity makes friends.....
6. Nothing succeeds.....
7. Short reckonings.....
8. First come.....
9. there are wheels.....
10. It is not the cowl.....
11. You can't judge
12. To move heaven.....
13. To let the cat.....
14. To make a mountain.....
15. To call a spade.....
16. To bell.....
17. Better late.....
18. Don't send good.....
19. An apple a day.....
20. What can't be cured.....
21. Don't be penny wise.....
22. Contentment is.....
23. A good beginning is.....
24. As you make your bed.....
25. Too many cooks
26. Don't count your chickens.....
27. Beggars can't be.....
28. There are friends and.....

Activity Four: Explain the following expressions

1. From hand to mouth
2. From mouth to mouth
3. To come to the point
4. to be short of something
5. To touch the bottom
6. to cross to mind
7. Life is full of ups and downs
8. To thank one's stars
9. to devote oneself to a cause
10. to take heart
11. to lay heads together
12. to be under a person's thumb
13. to work shoulder to shoulder
14. to persuade someone
15. to leave the beaten track
16. to be at sea
17. few and far between
18. to go to the red
19. to turn over a new leaf
20. to be on tenterhooks
21. to rest on one's oars
22. to see eye to eye with
23. to get wind
24. to harp on the same string
25. to be at issues
26. to throw off the mask
27. To rob peter to pay Paul

Activity Five: Idioms, proverbs and expressive words

1. Complete the following expressions

1. Be up and.....
2. It is Greek.....
3. to spread like.....
4. to be true.....
5. To rob Peter to.....
6. Few and far.....
7. To burn the candle.....
8. To make a mountain.....
9. to pay off.....
10. To end in.....

2. Explain the following expressions

1. To bell the cat
2. to be in hot water
3. to go to the wall
4. to tremble in the balance
5. to leave no stone unturned
6. to draw oneself up
7. to draw in one's horns
8. to fall down on a job
9. to fly off the handle

3. Use the following expressions in meaningful sentences

1. To draw someone out of his shell
2. To keep a good table
3. to give countenance to
4. to feather one's nest
5. to be ignorant

6. to cut off in the bloom
7. to be in tune
8. to harp on the same string
9. to make amends for.

4. Explain the following expressive words

1. A drunken quarrel
2. A brass farthing
3. a bosom friend
4. crocodile tears
5. a dying prayer
6. an iron hand
7. A chicken-hearted fellow
8. a jack tar
9. a black sheep
10. the upper ten
11. A queer fish
12. A bed of thorns
13. A red-letter day

5. Use the following in meaningful sentences

1. forty winks
2. a hen-pecked husband
3. a field pieces
4. a fast man
5. a small talk
6. the lion's share
7. a bird of passage
8. to have cold feet.

6. Place the following items in their correct places

A gang, herd, choir, bundle, staff, brace, nursery, squad, posy, convoy, brood, pack

1. A.....of cards
2. A.....of thieves
3. A.....of birds
4. A.....of flowers
5. A.....of plants
6. A..... of teachers
7. A..... of singers
8. A.....of hay
9. A.....of chickens
10. A..... of sheep
11. A..... of soldiers
12. A..... of pigeons

7. Say whether the following are TRUE or FALSE

1. A crew of sailors
2. A committee of teachers
3. A herd of pupils
4. a staff of directors
5. A colony of players
6. A flock of pilgrims
7. A team of runners
8. A swarm of insects
9. A group of keys
10. a party of researchers
11. A council of Advisers
12. A flock of birds
13. A crowd of dogs
14. A suite of clothes

15. A stack of trees
16. A clump of trees
17. A crowd of Indians
18. a string of camels
19. A string of hair
20. a box of cigars

8.Fill in the blanks below with the words given (sound effect)

Hum, hiss, growls, rippling, creaking, roar, hoot, howl, quack, croak, bleat, chatter, clank, scream, low, warble, grunt, crow, talk, clatter.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lions..... | 2. Owls..... |
| 3. Parrots..... | 4. Camels..... |
| 5. Hoofs..... | 6. Bees..... |
| 7. Chains..... | 8.Ducks..... |
| 9. Lambs..... | 10. Hawk..... |
| 11. Pigs..... | 12. Nightingales..... |
| 13. Jackals..... | 14.Monkeys..... |
| 15. Bears..... | 16..... of water |
| 17. Cocks..... | 18. Shoes..... |
| 19. Frogs..... | 20. Cattle..... |

9. Complete the following with the appropriate comparatives

1. As dry as a.....
2. As quick as.....
3. as brave as.....
4. as free as.....
5. as tame as.....
6. as cheerful as.....
7. as tender as.....
8. as quiet as a
9. as hungry as a.....

10. as tall as a.....
11. as mute as a.....
12. As slippery as.....
13. As steady as a
14. As cold as.....