

Collective nouns

- 4** Which words from the box can you use to describe 1–7?

crew flock gang herd
horde mob pack swarm

- 1 A large group of pigeons _____
- 2 A large group of people protesting violently in the street _____ , _____
- 3 A group of children or teenagers who spend time together _____
- 4 An enormous number of mosquitoes flying together _____
- 5 A group of wolves or wild dogs _____
- 6 The people who work together on a plane _____
- 7 A group of buffalo _____

5 Which responses are correct? Mark (✓) the correct box: a, b or both a and b.

1 I heard about this strange new chewing gum on the radio, and I think it was from Singapore.

a It must have been from Singapore because chewing gum is illegal there.

b It couldn't have been from Singapore because chewing gum is illegal there.

a ☐ b ☐ both a and b ☐



2 Do you know who put that sign up yesterday?

a It could have been Dino because he's responsible for safety here.

b It couldn't have been Dino because he's on vacation this week.

a ☐ b ☐ both a and b ☐

3 His application for an ID card has been turned down.

a Really? He might have filled out the form incorrectly.

b Really? He must have filled out the form incorrectly.

a ☐ b ☐ both a and b ☐

4 I have a photo of you driving a purple car, but I can't remember what year it was taken.

a It must have been 1988 because I borrowed my mom's purple car that summer.

b It couldn't have been 1987 because I didn't get my driver's license until 1988.

a ☐ b ☐ both a and b ☐

5 I spoke to someone at the front desk yesterday. A tall man with a mustache.

a Ah! That must have been Gerhard. It sounds like him.

b That might have been Gerhard because he has a mustache.

a ☐ b ☐ both a and b ☐

- 7 Complete the text with the correct form of the words in parentheses.

The Year of the Locust

As thousands of locusts descended on homes and villages in Senegal, Morocco, Mauritania and Egypt in 2004, people⁽¹⁾ _____ (must/be) terrified. Experts estimate that the swarm⁽²⁾ _____ (may/be) the size of London and the swarm⁽³⁾ _____ (might/include) up to 50 million insects. The only good news is that the locusts⁽⁴⁾ _____ (could/cause) much more damage by entering the main food-producing areas of the countries. Fortunately, despite their "swarm intelligence," they⁽⁵⁾ _____ (couldn't/know) about the

location of the main corn-producing fields of Senegal, or they would have devastated these areas. That ⁽⁶⁾ _____ (could/create) a huge food crisis across the continent.

As for how the swarm happened, scientists believe that good rains had created plenty of food for the locusts, and this ⁽⁷⁾ _____ (must/lead) to the sudden explosion in their numbers. Some people think that scientists ⁽⁸⁾ _____ (should/predict) the swarm, but others say that it was just a natural phenomenon. Either way, the swarm made 2004 “the year of the locust” for the victims of this terrifying plague.