

## 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 <sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (must/be) terrified. Experts estimate that the swarm <sup>(2)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (may/be) the size of London and the swarm <sup>(3)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (might/include) up to 50 million insects. The only good news is that the locusts <sup>(4)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (could/cause) much more damage by entering the main food-producing areas of the countries. Fortunately, despite their "swarm intelligence," they <sup>(5)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (couldn't/know) about the

location of the main corn-producing fields of Senegal, or they would have devastated these areas. That <sup>(6)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (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 <sup>(7)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (must/lead) to the sudden explosion in their numbers. Some people think that scientists <sup>(8)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (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.