Collective Nouns

A collective noun is a noun that refers to a group of items, such as people, animals, etc. Examples of collective nouns are: family, Congress, team, herd, etc. Collective nouns can be singular or plural. A common error people make when using collective nouns is using a collective noun as a singular but then subsequently referring to it in the plural. For instance:

Incorrect:

Congress needs to get their act together.

Correct:

Congress needs to get its act together.

Incorrect:

The team has lost their last three games.

Correct:

The team has lost its last three games.