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| Subject: Collective Subjects |
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|  | * Collective Nouns such as team, audience, government, and staff may be either singular or plural depending on their use in the sentence. North American English generally uses a singular verb, but a plural verb can be used with some collective nouns, like family, government or staff.

 *Ex.* *The government* **is** *discussing the new law*. (‘government’ is acting as a unit here, doing the same thing.) *The staff* **are** *in disagreement about their findings.* (‘Staff’ are acting as  separate individuals in a unit – they have different opinions.)* Collective Nouns such as news, mathematics, and the United States are singular and therefore take a singular verb.

*Ex.* *The news* *about the senator’s mishandling of funds* **is** *unjustified*.* Expressions of time, money, and distance usually take a singular verb.

*Ex.*  *Seven hours* **is** *a long time to be on an airplane.*  |  |
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| *Please conjugate the following verbs.* |

1. Yes, the team (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ good enough to win the Cup.
2. The staff (make) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of decisions without consulting the Director.
3. The government (control) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the agenda.
4. The City Council (to vote – negative) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on that new project yet.
5. Yes, the Board of Directors (discuss) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that investment at this very moment.
6. “Listen Alan, the first thing you have to learn around here is that management (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here to help you.”
7. So far, the audience (listen) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very carefully tonight.
8. “We’d better call the police. That crowd (look) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very angry.”
9. Two hundred kilometers (be)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_not a lot to travel in one day.
10. The advanced class (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ looking forward to practising their English with the visitors.
11. “It’s the final score. Our team (beat) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Russia 3-1!”
12. After a long meeting the committee (decide) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ finally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what to do about fundraising.
13. In all the time I have heard them, the choir (sound) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better.
14. Our furniture (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ old. Let’s get some new stuff.

15. The orchestra (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in good form tonight.