

Subject: Collective Subjects

- 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.*

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.

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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.