

# Collective Nouns

*A slithering of snakes,  
A tickle of spiders,  
A whiteness of clouds,  
A hush of libraries,  
A genie of smoke,  
A dribble of strawberries,  
An eternity of homeworks.*

*Aaron and Moira*

**First, read all the details below before you start your writing.**

- \* You know what a noun is – a thing. A **collective noun** is the term we use for a group of things. For example, a flock of sheep, a bunch of flowers, a class of students.
- \* Here are some rarer ones you might not know: a tissue of lies, a hand of bananas, a murder of crows.
- \* All of these collective nouns – and many, many more – were invented in the past.
- \* And now it is your turn. You are going to make up some new collective nouns.
- \* How many can you invent? Write down lots to start with – quickly. Then look back through them all and choose your best ones. Keep between eight and ten.
- \* To get you started, here are six nouns:

*pirates  
drink cans  
snails  
ambulances  
computer games  
dentists*

- \* Invent a collective noun to describe a group of any of them.

