

A Beastly Garden Of Wordy Delights
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 Last updated April 12, 2007

Words have always fascinated me. An avid reader from before the time I could see over the top of the check-out counter at the library, I have always found many words to be a delight to roll off the tongue or to sit there, oddly arrayed, on the page. While I usually did well on spelling tests, I often spent too much time mulling over the sound or appearance of words, so I was not always the fastest of test-takers

Plurals, Collective Nouns, Sounds, Gender and Offspring

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Alligator	+s	Congregation	Peep		Hatchling
Alpaca					Cria
Antelope		Herd		Doe/buck	Calf
Ant	+s	Army, colony, swarm		Queen/flying [1]	Antling
Ape	+s	Shrewness	Gibber		Infant
Ass	+es	Herd, pace	Bray	Jennet(jenny)/jack	
Baboon	+s	Rumpus			Infant
Bacterium	Bacteria	Culture			
Badger	+s	Cete		Sow/boar	Kit, cub
Bass		Shoal			
Bat	+s	Cloud	Ping		Pup
Bear	+s	Sleuth, sloth	Growl	Sow/bear	Cub
Beaver	+s	Colony, lodge			Kit, kitten
Bee	+s	Hive, grist, swarm	Buzz, hum, murmur		Larva
Beetle	+s				Grub
Bird	+s	Congregation, flock, dissimulation, volary	Sing, twitter		Chick, hatchling
Bittern	+s	Sedge, sledge	Boom		
Blackbird	+s		Whistle		
Boar	+s	Pack, singular, sounder		Sow/boar	Piglet, boarlet
Buck	+s	Brace, clash			
Buffalo		Herd		Cow/bull	
Bull	+s		Bellow		
Butterfly	-ies	Flutter			Caterpillar
Buzzard	+s	Wake			Chick
Calf	Calves		Bawl, bleat		

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Camel	+s	Flock	Groan, grunt		Calf
Cat	+s	Clowder, clutter	Caterwal, mew, meow, purr, swear	Queen/tom(cat)	Catling, kit, kitten, puss
Caterpillar	+s	Army			
Cattle		Drove, herd	Bawl, low, moo	Cow/bull [2]	Calves
Chicken	+s	Brood, peep	Cackle, peep	Hen/rooster [3]	Chick
Chick	+s	Chattering, clutch	Peep		
Chimpanzee	+s	Cartload	Hoot, scream		Infant
Clam	+s	Bed			Larva
Cobra	+s	Quiver			
Cock(ere)	+s		Crow		
Cockroach	+es	Intrusion			Larva
Codfish					Codling, sprat
Colt	+s	Rag			
Coot	+s	Cover			Hatchling
Cormorant	+s	Gulp			
Cow	+s	Kine, herd	Bawl, low, moo		Calf (calves)
Coyote	+s	Band, pack, shift, wilien			Pup
Crane	+s	Herd, sedge, sledge			Hatchling, chick, colt
Crocodile	+s	Bask, congregation, float	@		
Crow	+s	Cawcus, hoard, murder (gathering); cawroboree (in flight)	Caw		Chick, hatchling
Cub	+s	Litter			
Cuckoo	+s	Cuckoo			
Curlew	+s	Herd			
Cur	+s	Cowardice			
Deer		Herd	Bell	Doe/buck	Fawn, yearling
Dog	+s	Pack	Bark, basy, howl, snarl, woof, yelp	Bitch/dog	Pup, puppy, whelp
Dolphin	+s	Pod	Click		
Donkey	+ies	Drove, herd			Foal
Dove	+s	Dule	Coo, moan		Squab
Duck	+s	Flock in air, paddling on water, team	Quack	Duck/drake	Duckling
Eagle	+s	Convocation	Scream		Eaglet, eyas
Eel		Swarm			Elver
Egg	+s	Clutch			
Elephant	+s	Herd, parade	Trumpet	Cow/bull	Calf

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Elephant seal	+s	Pod			Yearling=weaner
Elk		Gang			Calf
Emu	+s	Mob			Chick, hatchling
Falcon	+s		Chant		
Ferret	+s	Business, fesnyng			Kit
Finch	+es	Charm			Chick, hatchling
Fish	Fish, fishes	Catch, drought, haul, run, school, shoal			Fry, fingerling
Flamingo	+s	Stand			Chick
Fly	Flies	Business, swarm	Buzz		Maggot
Fox	+s	Leash, skulk	Bark, yelp	Vixen/dog	Cub, kit, pup
Frog	+s	Army	Croak		Polliwog, tadpole
Giraffe	+s	Corps, herd, totter, tower	Bleat, grunt		Calf
Gnat	+s	Cloud, horde			
Goat	+s	Flock, tribe, trip		Nanny/billy goat	Kid
Goldfinch	+s	Charm			Chick
Goose	Geese	Gaggle on water/land; skein when in flight	Cackle, hiss, honk	Goose/gander	Cheeper, gosling, grouse
Gorilla	+s	Band		Female/silverback [4]	Infant
Grasshopper	+s		Chirp, pitter		Pup
Greyhound	+s	Leash	Roo		
Grouse		Drumming	Drum		Cheeper, chick
Guanaco	+s				Cria
Guinea fowl			Cry		Keet
Guinea pig	+s		Squeak, whistle		
Hag moth					Monkey slug
Hare	+s	Down, husk	Squeak	Doe/buck	Leveret
Hawk	+s	Cast, kettle	Scream		Fledgling, eyas
Hedgehog	+s	Array			Piglet
Hen	+s	Brood			Pullet
Heron	V	Siege, sedge			
Herring	+s	Shoal			
Hippo	+s	Bloat	Bray, snort		Calf
Hog	+s	Drift, parcel, passel			
Hornet	+s	Nest			Larva
Horse	+s	Harras, herd, ramuda, string	Neigh, whinny	Mare/stallion [5]	Foal, pony (colt m, filly f), yearling
Hound	+s	Cry, mute, pack			Pup

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Hummingbird	+s	Charm	Click, whir		Chick
Hyena	+s	Cackle	Laugh		
Insect	+s	Swarm			Larva, nymph
Jackrabbit	+s	Husk			
Jay	+s	Chatter			
Jellyfish		Smack			Ephyra
Kangaroo	+s	Mob, troop		Flyer/boomer	Joey
Kitten	+s	Kindle, litter	Mew		
Lapwing	+s	Deceit			
Lark	+s	Ascension, exaltation			Chick
Leopard	+s	Leap, leep			Cub
Linnet	+s		Chuckle		
Lion	+s	Pride	Roar, growl	Lioness/lion	Cub
Llama	+s				Cria
Locust	+s	Plague			Larva
Louse	Lice	Colony			Nit [6]
Loon	+s	Howl			
Mackerel					Blinker, tinker, spike
Magpie	+s	Tiding	Chatter		
Mallard	+s	Sord			Duckling
Man	Men	Band			Infant, toddler, child
Mare	+s	Stud			
Marten	+s	Richness			
Mole	+s	Labor			Pup
Monkey	+s	Barrel, troupe	Chatter, gibber		Infant
Moose		Herd	Bellow		Calf
Mosquito	+es	Swarm			Nymph
Mouse	Mice	Hoard, miscief	Squeak, squeal		Pinky
Mule	+s	Barren, span			Foal
Nightingale	+s	Watch	Pipe, jug-lug, warble		Chick
Owl	+s	Parliament	Hoot, screech, wail		Owlet
Ox	Oxen	Drove, herd, team, yoke	Bellow, low		
Oyster	=s	Bed			Spat
Parrot	+s	Company, flock	Talk		Chick
Partridge	+s	Covey			Cheeper, chick
Peacock, Peafowl	+s	Muster, ostentation	Scream	Hen/peacock	Chick
Peep	+s	Litter when fresh/frozen, puddle when cooked			Blob

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Peewit	+s		Cry		
Pelican	+s	Raft on water, squadron in flight			
Penguin	+s	Rookery	Bleat		Chick
Pheasant	+s	Bouquet, nide, nye			Chick
Pig	+s	Litter	Grunt, squeak, squeal	Sow/boar	Farrow, piglet, shoat, suckling
Pigeon	+s	Flight, flock	Coo	Hen/cock	Squab, squeaker
Pilchard	+s	Shoal			
Plover	+s	Congregation, wing			
Polar bear	+s	Pack			Cub
Pony	-ies	String			
Porcupine	+s	Prickle			
Porpoise	+s	Herd, pod			
Prairie dog	+s	Coterie			Pup
Quail		Bevy, covey		Hen/cock	Cheeper, chick
Rabbit	+s	Nest, warren		Doe/buck	Bunny
Raccoon	+s	Nursery			Cub
Rat	+s	Hoard, mischief, pack, swarm			Pinky, pup
Rattlesnake	+s	Rhumba			
Raven	+s	Unkindness	Croak		
Regal moth					Hickory horned devil
Rhino	+s	Crash	Grunt, growl, snort, whistle		Calf
Roebuck	+s				Bevy
Rook	+s	Building, clamor	Caw		
Rooster					Cockerel
Salmon					Grilse, parr, smolt
Sandpiper	+s	Pipe, whistle			Chick
Sea gull	+s	Colony	Squawk		Chick
Seal	+s	Colony, herd, pod		Cow/bull	Pup
Shark	+s	School, shiver			Cub, pup
Shearwater	+s	Shrill			
Sheep		Flock	Baa, bleat	Ewe/ram	Cosset, hog, lamb, lambkins
Skunk	+s	Surfeit			Kit
Snake	+s	Bed, nest, pit, rave	Hiss		Snakelet, neonate/hatchling
Snipe		Walk, wisp			
Sparrow	+s	Flight, host	Chirp		Chick
Spider	+s	Clutter, cluster			Spiderlings

Animal	Plural	Collective Noun	Sound	Female/Male	Offspring
Squirrel	+s	Dray, scurry			Pup
Stag	+s		Bellow, bellow, roar [7]		
Starling	+s	Murmuration			
Stork	+s	Mustering			Chick
Swallow	+s	Flight	Titter		Chick
Swallowtail butterfly					Orange dog
Swan	+s	Bevy, herd, lamentation, team, wedge	Bark, cry, grunt, hiss	Pen/cob	Cygnets
Swift	+s	Flock			
Swine		Drift, sounder			Piglet
Teal		Spring			
Thrush	+es	Mutation			
Tiger	+s	Ambush, streak	Growl, roar	Tigress/tiger	Cub, whelp
Toad	+s	Knot			Tadpole, polliwog
Tortoise	+s		Grunt		
Trout		Hover			Fry, fingerling
Turkey	+s	Flock, gang, raft, rafter	Gobble	Hen/tom	Poult
Turtledove	+s	Dule, pitying			Chick
Turtle	+s	Bale			Hatchling
Vicuna					Cria
Walrus		Pod		Cow/bull	
Whale	+s	Gam, school, pod			Calf
Viper	+s	Generation, nest			Snakelet, neonate
Wolf	Wolves	Herd, nest, route	Howl		Pup, whelp
Woodcock	+s	Fall			
Woodpecker	+s	Descent			
Zebra	+s	Dazzle			Foal

Footnotes

1. Only males have wings. All worker ants are sterile.
2. Neutered male: steer
3. Neutered male: capon
4. The mature males, whose furred backs have swathes of silvery white fur.
5. Neutered male: stallion/gelding
6. Nit is the name for both the egg and larval stages.
7. In New Zealand, they call stag mating season "the roaring season" due to the all their noise. (From A. Turner)
@ Listen to real croc talk! <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/cnhc/croccomm.html>

In general, about young:

Young of carnivorous mammals: whelp

Generally, for most types: younglet, youngling, offspring

Young birds: fledgling, nestling

Young domestic fowl: chick, chicken

Young wild fowl: flapper

Animal Adjectives

ADJECTIVE	ANIMAL	ADJECTIVE	ANIMAL	ADJECTIVE	ANIMAL
Acarine	mite	Herpestine	mongoose	Piscine	fish
Anguine	snake	Hircine	goat	Ranine	frog
Anserine	goose	Hirudinal	leech	Reptilian	reptile
Apian	Bee	Lacertine	lizard	Serpentine	serpent, snake
Aquiline	eagle	Lapine	rabbit	Simian	ape
Asinine	ass	Lemurine	lemur	Soricine	shrew
Avian	bird	Leonine	lion	Strutious	ostrich/emu/rhea
Bovine	cow	Leporine	hare	Suilline	hog
Canine	dog	Lupine	wolf	Suine	Swine
Caprine	goat	Lutrine	otter	Taurine	bull
Cervine	deer, moose	Murine	mouse	Turdine	thrush
Crocodylian	crocodile	Musteline	skunk	Ursine	bear
Elephantine	elephant	Oscine	songbird	Vermian	worm
Equine	horse	Ovine	sheep	Viperine	viper
Feline	cat	Pavonine	peacock	Vulpine	fox
		Phocine	seals	Zebrine	zebra

Did you know a line (or queue, generally of schoolchildren), usually paired, is called a crocodile?

As in, "The crocodile made its way down the sidewalk, the crowds parting to let it pass."

Herp Riddles and Jokes

Why are snakes' feet always wet?
They wear water moccasins.

What snake can be mowed?
A grass snake.

Where does a snake go to get a new skin?
To a shed.

What kind of snakes do matadors own?
Bull snakes.

What part of a car can a snake repair?
The vindshield vipers.

Do snakes make good race car drivers?
No, they are always making pit stops.

Do snakes know their multiplication tables?
No, the are all adders.

What snake have problems multiplying?
The adders.

What do reptiles toss at weddings?
Garter snakes.

Which snake has the softest voice?
A cottonmouth.

What snake is found in a horse-drawn carriage?
A coachwhip.

What do you call a snake who has disappeared?
A missing python.

Why did the python stand on a street corner and strike at a passer-by?
He wanted to grab a quick bite.

What snakes grow in the garden?
Corn snakes.

What snake can be served in a glass with a straw?
A milk snake.

Do snakes need silverware when they eat?
No, they have forked tongues.

Did the tortoise win the race by a long distance?
No, he won by a hare.

What do you get when you cross the Frog Prince with Cinderella's footman?
Foot Prince.

Jokes

Two snakes are talking one day.
The first snake asks, "Why do they always measure us in inches?"
The other snake replied, "Because we don't have any feet!"

Did you hear about the rattlesnake and mortician who got married? They received towels labeled "Hiss" and "Hearse".

More Beastly Sites

USGS Northern Prairie Center
<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/help/faq/animals/names.htm>

Paul Vigay's Collective Nouns
<http://www.vigay.com/nouns>

Birding @ About.com
<http://birding.about.com/library/weekly/aa032700a.htm>

Whilst Watching a Dissimulation of Birds (poem)
<http://www.nzbirds.com/more/nouns.html>

OjoHeaven
<http://www.ojohaven.com/collectives/bibliography.html>

Fun With Words: Collective Nouns
<http://rinkworks.com/words/collective.shtml>

Hoardworks.com's Word Games
<http://www.hoadworks.com/gamemenu.htm>