ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Collective Nouns Quiz: A Herd of, A Flock of, A Grain of

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1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**D**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**B**	14	**A**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. A ___ of cows was standing in the middle of the road.
✔ **B) herd**
Cows, goats, elephants: big animals that stay together and eat grass come as a herd.

2. Look up! There's a ___ of birds flying south.
✔ **D) flock**
Sheep in a field and birds in the sky share one word: flock.

3. Don't move! There's a ___ of flies near the window.
✔ **A) swarm**
Bees or flies: a buzzing cloud of them is a swarm.

4. Let's play a game: here is a ___ of cards. Americans call it a ___.
✔ **C) pack … deck**
British English says a pack of cards; American English says a deck.

5. From the boat we watched a ___ of tiny silver fish.
✔ **A) shoal**
From a boat you see silver flashes turning together: a shoal (or a school) of fish.

6. The police arrested a ___ of car thieves.
✔ **B) gang**
Thieves who work together, or teenagers who hang around and cause trouble: a gang.

7. I bought a new ___ of knives. They all match and come in one wooden box.
✔ **D) set**
Knives that match and come in one box are a set.

8. My son never folds anything. There's a huge untidy ___ of clothes on his floor.
✔ **C) pile**
A pile is a lot of things on top of each other, often untidy. A stack is neat.

9. The librarian put the books in a neat ___ on the desk.
✔ **A) stack**
A stack is a neat group of flat things, one on top of another.

10. Please write your name at the top of each ___ of paper.
✔ **D) sheet**
A sheet is what you tear from the pad.

11. Could I have just a ___ of milk in my tea?
✔ **B) drop**
Just a little milk, the size of what falls from a tap: a drop.

12. Ow! There's a ___ of sand in my eye.
✔ **C) grain**
A grain is one tiny bit of sand, rice or salt.

13. She put a ___ of sugar in her tea and lay on the lawn chewing a ___ of grass.
✔ **B) lump … blade**
A lump is a hard piece with no clear shape (sugar, ice, coal). A blade of grass is one thin green leaf.

14. Each ___ of furniture in the sale has a red label.
✔ **A) item**
The sale counts things one by one: an item of furniture, clothing or news.

15. I read about it in ___ this morning. Visiting Iceland was ___.
✔ **C) the paper … an amazing experience**
The paper is the newspaper. An experience (countable) is one event that happened to you, so it needs a or an.

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