ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Collective Nouns Quiz: Family, Team, Police, People (B1)

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

Explanations

1. The police ___ looking for the thief.
✔ **B) are**
Police always takes a plural verb: The police are looking for him.

2. The team ___ won its first match.
✔ **A) has**
Its shows we think of the team as one group, so we use a singular verb: The team has won its first match.

3. People ___ very friendly here.
✔ **C) are**
People is the plural of person, so it takes a plural verb.

4. Our class ___ thirty students.
✔ **D) has**
Here we talk about the class as one group and say how many students it has: Our class has thirty students.

5. The cattle ___ in the field.
✔ **D) are**
Cattle (cows) always takes a plural verb, like police and people.

6. Which sentence is correct?
✔ **A) The police are coming.**
Police is always plural and has no -s: The police are coming.

7. My family ___ a big house in the country.
✔ **C) has**
When we mean the family as one unit, we use a singular verb: My family has a big house. (British English sometimes uses a plural verb for families; has is right everywhere.)

8. The audience ___ clapping and cheering.
✔ **C) were**
Here we think of the audience as many people doing things, so we use a plural verb: were. (American English usually says the audience was.)

9. The government ___ announced a new plan.
✔ **A) has**
Has is right in both British and American English when we think of the government as one body. (British English can also say the government have.)

10. Twenty people ___ hurt in the accident.
✔ **C) were**
People is plural, so we use were.

11. The staff ___ in the meeting room now.
✔ **B) are**
Staff means the people who work somewhere. When we think of them as people in a room, we often use a plural verb: The staff are in the meeting room. (American English often says the staff is.)

12. A group of students ___ waiting outside.
✔ **A) is**
A group of + plural noun can take either verb, but the singular verb is right in formal and American English, because group is the subject: A group of students is waiting.

13. The jury ___ reached its decision.
✔ **B) has**
Its shows the jury acts as one group, so we use has.

14. Which sentence is correct?
✔ **D) The people are angry.**
People is plural: The people are angry.

15. The company ___ five hundred employees.
✔ **B) has**
A company as one organisation takes a singular verb in both British and American English: The company has five hundred employees.

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