

Coached Example

Read the passage and answer the questions.

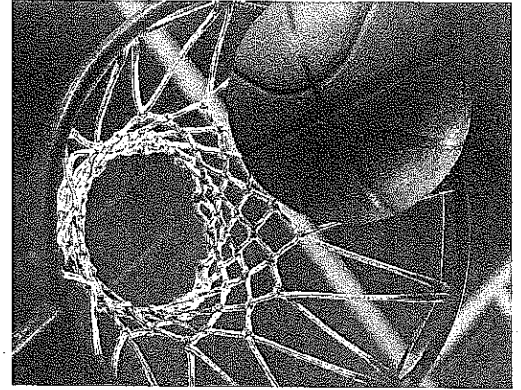
Aamir shot the ball through the hoop and raised a fist in the air. "Score!" he shouted at his brother, Najid. "Eight-zip, brother! You are getting schooled!"

"Oh yeah?" Najid replied. He dribbled the ball and spun around Aamir, sinking a three-point shot over Aamir's head. "Nothing but net!" Najid declared with a huge smile. "Who's the teacher now, bro? What's that? I can't hear you."

Aamir danced around the court, his sneakers squeaking on the gym floor. Najid ran along with him, waving his arms and trying to prevent Aamir from taking a shot. Then, Aamir released the ball. Najid watched it sail through the air and drop into the basket.

"Can you hear me now?" Aamir asked gleefully.

Najid shook his head in wonder. "Whatever you had for breakfast, I want some!"



1. What type of mood does the dialogue create?

- A. lighthearted
- B. suspenseful
- C. lonely
- D. peaceful

Hint How did the passage make you feel?

2. The author uses dialogue to show that the brothers

- A. do not get along.
- B. like to tease each other.
- C. are very different from each other.
- D. are not enjoying their basketball game.

Hint Think about how the brothers speak to each other.

A **collective noun** names a group of people or things. A collective noun is usually treated as a singular subject; thus, it takes a singular verb.

The team is enthusiastic about its first championship game.

The word *team* is a collective noun that represents a group of individual members. The team is enthusiastic as a unit, so the singular verb *is* should be used. However, a collective noun can sometimes be plural.

The team are being fitted for their uniforms later today.

The team members are being fitted for their uniforms *individually*, so in this sentence, the noun *team* is plural and requires the plural verb *are*. If it seems a little strange, it's because we're used to thinking of collective nouns as singular, and most of the time they will be. Another option is to add the word *members* after *team* to emphasize that the members are acting as individuals. The chart below lists examples of collective nouns.

Collective Nouns				
audience	committee	corporation	family	herd
class	company	faculty	group	staff

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to a nonspecific person or thing. Like collective nouns, indefinite pronouns are almost always singular. A few indefinite pronouns, such as *some* and *all*, can be singular or plural, depending on the context. The chart below contains examples of indefinite pronouns.

Indefinite Pronouns				
anybody	each	neither	no one	some
anyone	everyone	nothing	one	somebody

Notice how the verbs agree with the subjects in the sentences below:

Anyone who disrupts the performance will be asked to leave.

Neither of the suggestions is a good solution to the problem.

Each of the students is having trouble digesting the cafeteria food.

No one has the winning lottery number.

Thinking It Through 2

Read the following sentences. Write them correctly on the lines provided. If the sentence is correct, write "correct as is."

1. Some people finds it hard to believe, but each snowflake are different.

Hint The first part of the sentence contains an indefinite pronoun.

2. A flock of seagulls invade the beach every summer, searching for scraps.

Hint Determine if the collective noun refers to the group or to the individual members.

3. After all of you has finished eating, make sure nothing are left on the table.

4. The company, after much public pressure, wants to revise its policies.

5. The twin sisters always enjoys whenever anyone confuse one for the other.

6. The family rent a summer home in Jamaica for family vacations.
