

**A lot of/A group of/A number of :**

মাঠে প্রচুর ছেলে একত্র হয়েছে—*There is a lot of boys on the ground.*

মাঠে প্রচুর ছেলে (ভিন্ন ভিন্ন সম্ভা) খেলা করছে—*A lot of boys are playing in the field.*

এইভাবে—*Here is a group of boys. A group of boys are enjoying a picnic.*

*There is a large number of boys in his class.*

*A number of boys were caught copying.*—Wren & Martin

**Special Note from 'Oxford Guide To English Grammar'.**

—John Eastwood

"When a plural noun follows *number of*, *majority of*, or *a lot of*, we normally use a plural verb.

*A large number of letters were received. The majority of people have complained. A lot of people have complained.*

*Here a number of etc. expresses quantity.*

(a) But, when *number* means 'figure', it agrees with the verb. *The number of letters we receive is increasing.*

(b) The word *amount* agrees with the verb. *A large amount of money was collected. Large amounts of money were collected.*"

**15. Some nouns which are singular in form but plural in meaning take a plural verb.**

(কিছু noun আকারে Singular হলেও অর্থের দিক থেকে Plural, সেগুলি Plural verb নেয়।)

*The police are questioning a man. But, the policeman is watching outside the house.*

জনসাধারণকে আইন মেনে চলতে হয়—*People have to obey the law.*

দু ডজনে চব্বিশটি হয়—*Two dozen (not dozens) make twentyfour.*

একডজন ডিমের দাম আঠারো টাকা—*One dozen of eggs cost eighteen rupees.*

**16. Some nouns which are plural in form but singular in meaning take a Singular verb.** (কিছু noun আকারে plural হলেও অর্থের দিক থেকে singular, সেগুলি Singular verb নেয়।)

সংবাদটি সত্য—*The news is true.*

পাপের বেতন মৃত্যু—*The wages of sin is death.*

পদার্থবিদ্যা বিজ্ঞানের একটি শাখা—*Physics is a branch of science.*

রাজনীতিই তার জীবনের কাজ—*Politics is the business of his life.*

*A chemical works (factory) causes a lot of pollution.*

[ But, *Chemical works (factories) cause a lot of pollution.* ]

**Note :** But some nouns are always plural and take a plural verb.

*The goods were found to be defective. My belongings have been destroyed.*

**17. When a plural noun is placed with a real singular subject such as *one*, *each* etc. with the help of 'of', the verb must be singular, not plural. In such cases, a plural verb is often wrongly used. (*one of*, *each of*, *either of*, *neither of* etc. take a singular verb.)**

(যখন প্রকৃত singular subject-এর সঙ্গে কোনো plural noun 'of' দিয়ে যুক্ত হয়, তখন verb-টি Singular হয়, Plural হয় না। এরূপ ক্ষেত্রে প্রায়ই ভুল করে plural verb বসানো হয়।)

