

I'm not a bot

























Regards : What's the form correct to the next statements?? My family watch a lot of t.v.? or My family watches a lot of t.v.? and why? [...] Last edited by a moderator: Nov 15, 2011 Family es la tercera persona del singular, por lo tanto le corresponde watches. My family watch a lot of t.v.? Family is a third person singular noun. I see, you see, she sees, he sees, they see, we see. Third person singular nouns need an "s" with the verbs. Hello. 'Family' is a collective noun. As far as I know, in BrE collective nouns can take either singular or plural verbs depending on whether the focus is on individual members or on the group as a whole, so technically both "my family watches ..." and "my family watch ..." are correct. Singular is preferred in AmE in similar cases. Saludos. Singular words which refer to groups of people (like family, team, government) can often be used as if they were plural, especially in British English. I agree, but I'd change especially to only. Here in the States, I have never heard the plural form of a verb used with collective nouns like team and family. In the UK, 95% of the time, people say 'Watch' although I think that watches is probably correct. I think that in the US they are more strict about that. We would say Manchester United ARE winning 2-1, but in the USA, I think they would say IS. Unless, you are writing an essay, both are correct. Another example would be that most people in the UK would say..."The government ARE going to lower taxes' In the UK, 95% of the time, people say 'Watch' although I think that watches is probably correct. I think we can state that singular and plural are both grammatically correct in this case; just different use. Last edited: Nov 15, 2011 I agree, but I'd change especially to only. Here in the States, I have never heard the plural form of a verb used with collective nouns like team and family. I wouldn't go that far, Spug. There are plenty of other English-speaking countries in the world. 'ONLY in British English' What about the Irish?? We would say Manchester United ARE winning 2-1, but in the USA, I think they would say IS. Unless, you are writing an essay, both are correct. ^I think Saintcasper's football team example is a good one. In the course of a game, it would sound "off" to most British ears for a commentator to say "Manchester United IS playing well" because we imagine the team as a group of individuals and not as some kind of abstract single entity playing by itself. On the other hand, it would be preferable to say "Manchester United IS a global brand". As blasisa said, it's about the focus. But as mentioned above, most Americans consider that "ARE" usage as just plain wrong. PS: Pop/rock groups are another good example. In the UK we would usually say: "Radiohead are...", whereas in North America: "Radiohead is...". Is 'family' a singular or a plural noun? You can use both forms. If you consider your family as a "whole group" then you use singular. If you consider ech one of them as an individual of a group, you use plural. You can use both forms. If you consider your family as a "whole group" then you use singular. If you consider each one of them as an individual of a group, you use plural. Agreed. I personally would say "my family goes skiing" and I think that would be common usage in the US. No, you can't use both forms, at least not in US English. Certain nouns are treated as plural nouns in British English but as singular nouns in US English. Thus, nouns like the family, the jury, the company all take the singular in US English (but not in British English). In proper US English, it must be "my family goes skiing." But in sports,.....even though the Patriots is the team's name, when talking about the team, we use the plural. The Patriots are not having a great season this year! In Michael Swan's Practical English Usage he says that US English commonly uses SINGULAR in these cases (though they can take plural pronouns), but "family" is the exception that can take either singular or plural. Doesn't sound right to me. I can't think of a single example in which family could be plural. Does Swan give any specific examples? But in sports.....even though the Patriots is the team's name, when talking about the team, we use the plural. The Patriots are not having a great season this year! Because the team's name is plural. The Patriots are not having a great season, but Real Salt Lake is, and so is the Minnesota Wild. Fenixpollo, the example Mr Swan gives is this: "My family have decided to move to Nottingham. They think it's a better place to live" Tegui, this is an example of British English. In American English, it would be "My family has...". ...the example Mr Swan gives is this: "My family have decided to move to Nottingham. They think it's a better place to live" "My family have decided to move to Nottingham." BE, and perhaps other regions such as Australia and New Zealand (but wait for confirmation from speakers from those regions) "My family has decided to move to Nottingham." AE. fenixpollo is right with respect to AE in this construction. It would be very rare for an AE speaker to say "My family have..." No, it depends on the sense. The jury is sequestered in the hotel. The jury are fighting about their verdict. Ribran, your link to Webster's didn't let me see anything. In any case, "The jury are fighting" sounds very strange to my American ears. I would say "The members of the jury are fighting," or "The jurors are fighting," but "The jury is..." Doesn't sound right to me. I can't think of a single example in which family could be plural. Does Swan give any specific examples? Because the team's name is plural. The Patriots are not having a great season, but Real Salt Lake is, and so is the Minnesota Wild. Accuse me of bad English, Fenix, but are the Real Salt Lake's really having a good season? And how about those Minnesota Wild's? Fenixpollo, the example Mr Swan gives is this: "My family have decided to move to Nottingham. They think it's a better place to live" In AE, it would definitely be "My family has decided to move to Nottingham. They think it's a better place to live." With the verb "think", it would be strange to use the singular when referring to what it is that all of the family members think. So Swan was half right because it appears that we use incorrect grammar in this one example ("incorrect" because of the lack of parallel structure). Accuse me of bad English, Fenix, but are the Real Salt Lake's really having a good season? And how about those Minnesota Wild's? I didn't mean to sound like I was accusing you of anything. Chispa. I was agreeing with you that we use plural pronouns and verbs for plural team names; then I also pointed out that we use singular pronouns and verbs for singular team names. And yes, they are both having good seasons. In any case, "The jury are fighting" sounds very strange to my American ears. I agree completely. I've never heard such a usage anywhere in the US. It's standard and (as far as I know) fully acceptable BE usage, but it sounds quite jarring to us. Ribran, your link to Webster's didn't let me see anything. In any case, "The jury are fighting" sounds very strange to my American ears. I would say "The members of the jury are fighting," or "The jurors are fighting," but "The jury is..." Sorry, the examples are on pages 40 and 41. Also here on page 88. More examples. Here Here (page 164) Here (page 105) Interesting reading. ribran. These sources all confirm that it is standard American usage to treat collective nouns as singular. OK, but that doesn't mean they can't be considered plural. While these sentences are grammatically correct, and apparently perfectly acceptable in the UK (and in what other English-speaking countries I won't venture to guess), as far as American usage goes I would say they're quite awkward. To be sure, "The committee argues often about its opinions" isn't any better, since we mean to talk about the various members of the committee at variance with each other, not about a unified whole. What I would actually say, then, is: "The committee members argue often about their opinions." "Everyone on Sigurd's soccer team has the flu," or "All of the guys on Sigurd's soccer team have the flu." "They were Catholic and treated like second-class citizens." Interesting reading, ribran. These sources all confirm that it is standard American usage to treat collective nouns as singular. OK, but that doesn't mean they can't be considered plural. 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While these sentences are grammatically correct, and apparently perfectly acceptable in the UK (and in what other English-speaking countries I won't venture to guess), as far as American usage goes I would say they're quite awkward. To be sure, "The committee argues often about its opinions" isn't any better, since we mean to always take singular verbs in AmE.) So, it's simple: in AE collective nouns take singular verbs and in BrE we can use either singular or plural. Please remember that Mr Swan's book is British and when needed he points out what the usage in AmE is. EDITED : collective nouns instead of singular nouns (Thanks to Ribran and Fenixpollo for correcting my mistake) Last edited: Nov 24, 2011 So, it's simple: in AE singular nouns take singular verbs and in BrE we can use either singular or plural. Please remember that Mr Swan's book is British and when needed he points out what the usage in AmE is. I'm not sure what led you to that conclusion... There are general preferences, but it's not so simple. Really, check any modern American usage guide. They all say pretty much the same thing. Last edited: Nov 23, 2011 So, it's simple: in AE singular nouns take singular verbs and in BrE we can use either singular or plural. I disagree that it's simple, because it's not a distinction between "singular nouns" versus "plural nouns". The concept here is collective noun: a noun that appears to be singular, but which can be treated as either singular or plural - which is a preference, as ribran says, that mostly depends on the speaker's region. Most (if not all) American English-speakers would say "The jury members are fighting about their verdict." Last edited: Nov 24, 2011 Hi, so for example, which one of this two phrases are correct? "My family love me" or "My family loves me" And why? Last edited: Jul 15, 2013 A few selected posts that should answer your question grahamcracker (American English) said: Family is a third person singular noun. I see, you see, she sees, he sees, they see, we see. Third person singular nouns need an "s" with the verbs. Hello. 'Family' is a collective noun. As far as I know, in BrE collective nouns can take either singular or plural verbs depending on whether the focus is on individual members or on the group as a whole, so technically both "my family watches ..." and "my family watch ..." are correct. Singular is preferred in AmE in similar cases. Saludos. Singular words which refer to groups of people (like family, team, government) can often be used as if they were plural, especially in British English. My family have decided to move to Nottingham. (...) M. Swan, Practical English Usage. I agree, but I'd change especially to only. Here in the States, I have never heard the plural form of a verb used with collective nouns like team and family. saintcasper91 (British English) said: In the UK, 95% of the time, people say 'Watch' although I think that watches is probably correct. I think that in the US they are more strict about that. We would say Manchester United ARE winning 2-1, but in the USA, I think they would say IS. Unless, you are writing an essay, both are correct. Another example would be that most people in the UK would say..."The government ARE going to lower taxes' RicardoElAbogado (American English) said: No, you can't use both forms, at least not in US English. Certain nouns are treated as plural nouns in British English but as singular nouns in US English. Thus, nouns like the family, the jury, the company all take the singular in US English (but not in British English). In proper US English, it must be "my family goes skiing." So to sum up: Para resumir, en inglés británico, sería: my family love me (plural: collective noun) pero en inglés americano: my family loves me (singular) Last edited: Jul 15, 2013 Hi, everyone!!! I was trying to write a short letter for someone who's celebrating his birthday, and I wanted to wish him to be surrounded by love. Of course, I didn't know which one of the phrases from the title was correct for this situation. So, I made a short research..., but now I'm a bit confused by the intentions or particularities of each one. Which phrase is better for this case? Are both of them correct? Thanks in advance! We usually use the plural when wishing someone lots of love. So for example, the sentence "I wish you are having a great time, surrounded by lots of love" is correct? We normally say "I hope you are having a great time." "Wishing" is for something we want to happen in the future. "Surrounded by lots of love" is fine. We normally say "I hope you are having a great time." "Wishing" is for something we want to happen in the future. "Surrounded by lots of love" is fine. Yeah, you are right!! I had forgotten that detail. Thank you very much! We usually use the plural when wishing someone lots of love. I completely agree, but there is no logic to this, so it's hard for non-natives to know which to use. We can say either "He has lots of money" or "He has a lot of money," and there is no difference in meaning. But, for some reason, we don't usually say "I'm wishing you a lot of love" or "surrounded by a lot of love." Both of those are grammatically correct, but we just don't say it that way. Language can be confusing. Hi everybody, I am french, and I was wondering about the correct usage of "still" in this sentence : "I love you still", that I heard several times in a movie (The iron mask man). I would understand it as "I love you, not moving". But my sister told me we can put "still" at the end of the sentence, and that it would have the exact same meaning as "I still love you". Is that true ? It sounds weird to me, but as I am not bilingual at all, I am eager to learn something about that. Maybe it's also "old english" (which I would be pleased to learn a bit from time to time) Kind regards, I love your definition and promise to steal it. But your sister is correct. It is another, more lyrical, and to me a more meaningful way to say "I still love you." And it is current still, although a bit poetic for everyday use - save it for heartfelt occasions. In the examples you've provided, "still" is synonymous with "even now". There is a difference in use between I still love you and I love you still. I still love you is a positive sentiment used to demonstrate support or reassurance in an ongoing love. I love you still is most often used to show regret at the inability to stop feeling love when one chooses to do so. Hi, Thank you for your answers, I'm glad I learned something today If you have a feel for oldies, play "Still" by Lionel Richie. You will hear the very last words in the song are: "I do love you, still". Hi SDLX Master, Indeed, I can understand better the definition given by catgreen earlier thanks to the lyrics of this song. Thank you for your reply ! Though I must admit to a preference for the initial interpretation - "Stop squirming, woman ! I love you still !!" :0 Dear Teachers, Namaskar. When only "Love" is written just before/above the sender's name at the end of an informal letter, what punctuation mark should follow it? Example: Dear Sister, ..... Love(?) Donald I think there should be a full stop after "Love", "Lots of love", etc. Right? Thank you. The convention is to put a comma. You don't want to separate yourself very emphatically from this love, and the sentence with its verb and prepositions implied continues. A comma is traditional - or nothing - not a full stop. I don't think Donald's sister is going to care much either way. I used to write a comma, I now write nothing. No, I don't use a comma after the salutation either, TT. EDIT: See this post by Nat in a previous thread: just a small point. In BrE, the colon is generally not used at the end of the salutation for both social and business correspondence. If there is any punctuation, this would be a comma. The 'block style' has been advocated by some for a while now, and one feature of this style is the omission of end-of-line punctuation for addresses, salutations and valedictions. ... The reason for the comma after the subscription is that, in the past, these closures were very often long sentences of which the name formed an integral part. For example: I am, Sir, your very obedient servant, John Smith. Nowadays briefer endings are used but the principle remains. The reason for the comma after the subscription is that, in the past, these closures were very often long sentences of which the name formed an integral part. For example: I am, Sir, your very obedient servant, John Smith. Nowadays briefer endings are used but the principle remains. Thank you so much for the very enlightening post. Thanks a lot, everybody. Hello everyone I've been wondering: which of the above prepositions (or maybe both?) should I use in "to have love ... books/animals/nature"? Thanks I'd use "for". But I guess it's much safer to say "I love books/animals/nature". I can think of examples in which I'd use for/of My love for cats is only suprassed by my love for books Her love for people was something to behold. For the love of humanity! I'd use "for". But I guess it's much safer to say "I love books/animals/nature". One would normally say I have a love of (books/films/nature) But you could use for, as in: I have a love for nature and the country life. In this context if you use "for" you will almost certainly have to qualify the statement. I can think of examples in which I'd use for/of My love for cats is only suprassed by my love for books Her love for people was something to behold. For the love of humanity! I would change your first to: My love for cats is only suprassed by my love of books. One would normally say I have a love of (books/films/nature) But you could use for, as in: I have a love for nature and the country life. In this context if you use "for" you will almost certainly have to include an "and". Using for means you will have to qualify the statement. Right, I forgot the article. Thank you! So is there no strict rule? I suppose it would be safest to say 'love towards ...'. Thanks again to all of you Hi, I came across this phrase "a love of" and looked it up in the dictionary. And I found "a love of" as well as "a love for." The examples are: 1. his love for football 2. we share a love of music The two prepositions here "for" and "of" don't seem to make a difference to me. So I wonder if this is just a matter of a personal choice. I often wonder about the usage of prepositions and I hope this is not too trivial a question to be discussed.

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