In British English, **group / collective** nouns (Examples: family, team, jury, committee etc) can be used with either singular or plural verbs and pronouns.

The **team is** in the dressing room. OR The **team are** in the dressing room.

Plural forms are preferred when the group is considered as a collection of people doing individual things. Singular forms are common when the group is seen as an impersonal unit.

**My family live** in different parts of Sydney. (Here the reference is to the individual members of the family and hence we use a plural verb.)
**My family lives** in that apartment. (Here the family is seen as an impersonal unit and hence we use a singular verb.)

Examples of group nouns which can be used with singular and plural verbs in English are:

Bank, the BBC, choir, class, club, committee, England, family, firm, government, jury, ministry, party, public, school, staff, team, union etc.

In American English, collective / group nouns are usually followed by singular verbs. Plural pronouns are sometimes used to refer back to collective nouns.

The **team is** in the room. **They are** changing.

Plural verbs are usually used after singular quantifying expressions like a **number of, a group of, a lot of, the majority of** etc.

**A number of scientists have** tried to solve the problem, but they have all failed. (More natural than ‘A number of scientists has tried to solve the problem.)
**The majority of criminals are** the victims of circumstances. (More natural than ‘The majority of criminals is the victims of circumstances.)