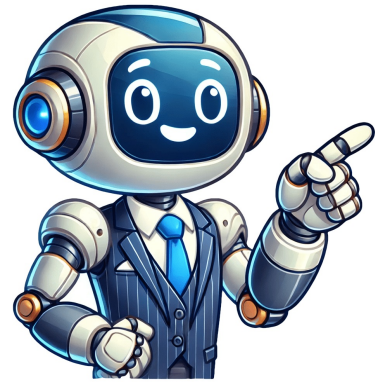Click Here

Hi there! My question is about the use of relative pronouns when following nouns that denote a group of people. Company is, to me, a noun of that sort, so my question is, can we say "the company who sells this product"? or the only possibilities there are "the company that/which sells this product"? Another question: as far as I know, group or collective nouns can be followed by a verb either in its singular or in its plural form, thus: "The company that sells this product is a market leader" and "The company that sell this product are a market leader" should both be OK. Is this so? Thanks a million! Mara.- With inanimate/abstract objects, generally avoid the use of "who." So, "The ccmpany that sells this product..." would be the correct and most common usage. In addition, a "company" (even though made up of many people) is a single thing (a corporate entity), it is not a plural noun; therefore, you would say, "The company that sells this product is a market leader" The most common usage around the states is definitely "The company that sells this product." That said, company is a collective noun, which (in American English) can take either a singular or plural verb depending on context. When the group acts as a single entity (ie a group unifying for the single goal of selling a product), the group takes a singular verb. However, when the group is divided or performing something separately, it's often best to opt for the plural, as in this example: "The tour group were arguing among themselves about where to eat." In British English, although I'm not an expert, I believe they often prefer to consider groups plural: "Radiohead are preparing for a new world tour". My Concise Handbook for Writers devotes 3 pages to collective nouns as ldrawgood has analyzed. It would be worthwhile for you to study your question , Riglos, in a good grammar book's coverage of that subject. Do you use 'it' or 'they' to refer to a company? Here is an example: General Computers Inc. purchased a large server for $750,400. They paid 40% of the value as a down-payment and received a loan for the balance at 7.54% compounded annually. If the loan was for 5 years and they had to make year-end payments to settle the loan calculate the size of their payments. We were told to creatively re-write such questions to refer to a company by using 'it', or repeat the company's name, or use 'the company'. Any suggestions? It depends on the type of English. Both are absolutely correct, while American English has a strong preference for companies and organisations to be grammatically singular, British English has a strong preference for them to be plural. That sentence is perfectly fine to me, and perfectly grammatical. I say the plural to indicate the plural form, because it's easier for most people to understand, when in fact they is a perfectly good singular pronoun for non-gender specific referents, but this is what then opens up a prescriptive/descriptive linguistic debate, so it's easier to call it plural sometimes. Why you were told to rewrite your sentence, is beyond me. What if I have a sentence like this: Geox has a lot of products in their stores, pretty much everything they offer online. How do I reconcile the singular "has" with the plural "they"?? Thank you! Hi susanna I think you have to go with either: Geox have a lot of products in their stores, pretty much everything they offer online. or Geox has a lot of products in its stores, pretty much everything it offers online. hi everybody, i am a new member of this forum, with thread i think: i suppose i've always thought of a company as "they" because the word conveys more than one person--as in who owns it hihi thank u so much!!! Hi Loob, thank you. Do you prefer one over the other? Akmrphi suggests you'd prefer the plural but reading online I see the distinction is not always clear-cut between AmE and BrE in this respect. Welcome skyman2610, and thanks! I think I'd use the plural version nine times out of ten, susanna (or even more often). But I wouldn't find the singular version strange if I saw or heard it. Hi! So is it ok to use the plural form of a verb with "company"? X company receive or receives machinery? Which is more common and formal? Thanks in advance! If I ordered something from Amazon, for example, I would not hesitate to say, "They said it would be delivered tomorrow..." but that humanizes it, of course. Which is correct? 'Who is *name of company?* *Name of company is*....' Or 'Who are *name of company?* *Name of company* are...' Last edited: Jun 15, 2018 I don't think the OP meant "name" literally, but intended "name of company" to stand for, and be replaced by, an actual name, as in e.g. "Who is/are HP?". {That's Hewlett Packard, not Hey Presto} In that case, the choice of singular or plural may depend on what the name is. The name might itself contain a plural (machines, airlines, brothers), so one might prefer use "are", and even if the name is clearly singular, a case could be made for treating a company as inherently plural, but I wouldn't have a problem with "Who is British Airways?". 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Nouns such as government, committee, group, team, department, family and company can be used to refer both to a whole group as a singular entity and to the members of the group. So there is sometimes a case for using a plural verb rather than a singular verb, but this is heavily dependent upon context. For example, you can say both,The family are unanimous in our condemnation of... The family is going to the beach. In the case of the large monolithic companies Google and Facebook I can't think of a context where they would take the plural verb. I think I would always always view them as single entities. ("Facebook has apologised.", "Google was sued.") The sentence "Who is/are Facebook/Google?" is an unusual one. The context it creates might make us think of the people who comprise the company rather than thinking of the company as an entity in its own right. I am probably still inclined to use, "Who is Google?", "Who is Facebook?", but I don't believe there is a single "right answer" here. However, consider this example: Gencarelli Austin (Pty Ltd) is a small unlisted plumbing firm. The plumbers Mr Gencarelli and Mr Austin are the proprietors and its only workers. I might naturally say, "Gencarelli Austin are a great company to work with. They were very reliable compared with the other companies that worked on the extension."I agree with Edinburgher that a plural in the company name can influence a speaker's choice of whether to treat a company as a single entity or not, but it is by no means the sole factor. For example, one of the two main supermarket companies in Australia is called Woolworths. I would say, "Woolworths has avacados on sale again." 百度知道＞提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了＞_