



Nouns: Gender



You have already learnt about **gender**.

Look at the picture and read how the nouns have been labelled. In the table below, sort the nouns according to their gender.



feminine	masculine	common	neuter



We will learn something more about the different genders here.

As you know, there are four main genders in the English language: **masculine**, **feminine**, **common** and **neuter**.

Some nouns of the **feminine** gender can be formed by adding **-ess** to nouns that belong to the **masculine** gender.

Example: count *countess* (count + **-ess**)

Sometimes, the **-ess** is added after dropping the vowel or **-er/-or** at the end of the masculine gender.

Example: prince – e = princ + **-ess** = *princess*

waiter – er + **-ess** = *waitress* (please note the change in spelling carefully)

Remember

- Males (men, boys, uncles, kings) belong to the *masculine* gender.
- Females (women, girls, aunts, queens) belong to the *feminine* gender.

Let's Practise

Write the feminine forms of the following nouns.

1. baron
2. heir
3. host
4. emperor
5. waiter
6. enchanter



Let's Learn

Look at how masculine and feminine genders of nouns have been formed below.

Examples: grandfather grandmother
son-in-law daughter-in-law

Let's Practise

Form the feminine gender of the nouns given below.

1. policeman police.....
2. stepson step.....
3. father-in-law-in-law
4. godfather god.....

Let's Learn

Some masculine and feminine words are entirely different from one another.

Examples: husband wife
uncle aunt
boy girl

Let's Practise

Match the following masculine and feminine forms.

masculine

deer

bull

lord

drake

hero

feminine

cow

lady

heroine

doe

duck



Let's Learn



Some nouns are neither **male** nor **female**. These nouns belong to the **neuter** gender.



Examples: chair, bench, mat, cot, stone, mountain, water, bottle, door, window, room, house, pot, pan, bat, ball, shoe, sock



Some nouns can be used to refer to people of either gender. These belong to the **common** gender.



Examples: 1. actor, painter, artist, writer, supervisor, teacher, coach, cook, shopkeeper, athlete, soldier, dancer, engineer, doctor, nurse, dentist, pilot, crew, minister, prime minister, chairperson, president, leader, patriot
2. Indian, French, Japanese, American, Chinese, Korean, Mexican

Let's Practise

Put these words under the correct headings in the table given below. One has been done for you.

table grandmother brother neighbour headmistress lion
lady husband parent uncle sock student

masculine	feminine	common	neuter
.....	table
.....
.....

Activity

Look at the list of professions given below. Choose two professions that you like best. Which one would you want to be when you grow up?



actor athlete painter artist writer
supervisor teacher coach cook businessperson
soldier dancer engineer doctor nurse
dentist pilot crew scientist astronaut



Tell the class what you want to be and why.



Revision

- Make sentences with two nouns from each gender.