

## The Noun: Gender

What in nature is called the difference of sex is in grammar called the difference of gender. (Nesfield)

Male	Female
Boy	Girls
Lion	Lioness
Hero	Heroine
Boy-friend	Girl-friend

The first word of each pair denotes the name of a *male* and the second word of each pair denotes the name of a *female*.

- A noun that denotes a male is said to be of the *Masculine Gender*.

Boy, Lion, Hero, Boy-friend, etc.

- A noun that denotes a female is said to be of the *Feminine Gender*.

Girl, Lioness, Heroine, Girl-friend, etc

- A noun that denotes either a male or a female is said to be of *the Common Gender*.

Parent, child, baby, infant, friend, people, servant, thief, enemy, cousin, orphan, student, doctor, teacher, police, neighbor, etc.

- A noun that denotes things without life is said to be of the *Neuter Gender*.

Book, pen, chair, table, room, gold, silver, iron, knife, shirt, coat, etc.

Though „tree“ is not lifeless, yet it is Neuter Gender in English

### **There are four kinds of Gender:**

1. Nouns denoting male: Masculine
2. Nouns denoting female: Feminine
3. Nouns denoting either sex: Common
4. Nouns denoting things without life: Neuter

### **RULES OF CHANGING GENDERS**

Generally there are *four rules* for changing *Masculine Genders* of Nouns into *Feminine Genders*:

- 1- By using different words

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>
Father	Mother	Son	Daughter
Brother	Sister	Sir	Madam
Boy	Girl	Bull, ox	Cow
Uncle	Aunt	Dog	Bitch
Nephew	Niece	Fox	Vixen
Husband	Wife	Horse	Mare
Man	Woman	Boar	Sow
Male	Female	Buck	Doe
gentleman	Lady	Drake	Duck
lord <sup>c</sup>	Lady	Drone	Bee
king	Queen	Gander	Goose
Bachelor	Maiden, spinster	Ram	Ewe
Monk	Nun	Stag	Hind
Cock	Hen	wizard	witch

2. By adding -ess

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>
Author	Authoress	Mayor	Mayoress
Baron	Baroness	Patron	Patroness
Count	Countess	Peer	Peeress
Giant	Giantess	Poet	Poetess
Heir	Heiress	Priest	Priestess
Host	Hostess	Prophet	Prophetess
Jew	Jewess	Shepherd	Shepherdess
Lion	Lioness	Steward	Stewardess
manager	manageress	viscount	viscountess

Note the changes in spelling in some cases: By dropping the vowel before „ess“

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>
Actor	Actress	Instructor	Instructress
Abbot	Abbess	Master	Mistress
Duke	Duchess	Prince	Princess
Emperor	Empress	Semester	Seamstress
Governor	Governess	Songster	Songstress
God	Goddess	Tiger	Tigress
Hunter	Huntress	waiter	waitress

3. By changing the Masculine word of a Compound word:

Boy-friend      girl-friend

Father-in-law    mother-in-law

4. Sometimes Feminine forms are made by adding " a, ine, ix" etc.

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>
Hero	Heroine
Sultan	Sultana
Czar	Czarina
Signor	Signora
Testator	Testatrix

### **EXERCISE**

1. Classify the following Nouns according to Gender and put them in the following boxes: Baby, cock, man, chair, table book, pen, oil, rice, tutor, hero, brother, child, teacher, doctor, son, poet, prince, tiger, master, priest, lord, aunt, wife, niece, male, host, bride.

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>common</b>	<b>Neuter</b>