

# Gender



## Warm-up



Read the sentences and write the highlighted words in the correct columns.

1. The **gentleman** standing near the table is my **father**. He is a **teacher**. That lady is my **mother**. Both of them are teachers.
2. I have a **brother** and a **sister**. They are going to a fancy dress party. He is dressed like a **prince**. She is going as a **princess**. I am going as a **soldier**.
3. Many other **boys** and **girls** are at the fancy dress party. There is a **king**, a **queen**, and some **friends** are dressed up as **animals**.

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Common Gender

A noun that stands for a male is said to be of the **masculine gender**. For example, gentleman, father, brother, prince, king, boy.

A noun that stands for a female is said to be of the **feminine gender**. For example, lady, mother, sister, princess, queen, girl.

A noun that can be used for either a male or a female is said to be of the **common gender**. For example, teacher, friend, soldier and animal.





## Rules for forming the feminine gender

- ◆ For some words we add *ess* to the masculine nouns. Sometimes, the spellings may have to be changed slightly before *ess* is added.

For example,

- prince—princess
- waiter—waitress
- god—goddess

- ◆ The feminine gender of many nouns is formed differently.

For example,

- man—woman
- hero—heroine
- sir—madam
- landlord—landlady
- uncle—aunt
- bridegroom—bride
- husband—wife
- nephew—niece
- headmaster—headmistress

- ◆ Animals and some birds can also be divided into masculine and feminine gender.

For example,

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
• tiger	— tigress	• dog	— bitch
• bull	— cow	• fox	— vixen
• lion	— lioness	• cock	— hen

### A. Use the words given in the box to complete the masculine and feminine pairs correctly.

peacock   goose   drake   stallion   doe   bull   drone   ram   fox   sow

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
1. gander	_____	2. buck	_____
3. _____	cow	4. _____	vixen
5. _____	mare	6. _____	queen bee
7. _____	peahen	8. _____	ewe
9. _____	duck	10. boar	_____

**B. Change the gender of the highlighted nouns. Make other necessary changes.**

1. Our landlady lives with her two dogs that keep her company.

*Our landlord lives with his two dogs that keep him company.*

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2. My brother lives in Nongpoh.

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3. My grandfather is nearly eighty years old.

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4. Mr Bhatia's nephew is a software professional.

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5. The king prayed to the gods for rain.

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6. The man and his wife boarded the train at Nagpur.

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7. The lady and her friend took care of the children.

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8. Priya's aunt and mother are news reporters.

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9. The waitress took our order for lunch.

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10. The headmaster of the boys' school is very strict.

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11. My uncle will come along with his son.

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12. The princess has a beautiful white mare.

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13. The gentleman took my teacher to the hospital.

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14. My father is my hero.

15. The ferocious lioness attacked the fox and injured it badly.



Now, read these words.

chair    bag    house    car    table  
pen    sun    stars    book    spectacles

These words are names of non-living things and are neither of the masculine nor the feminine gender.



A noun that stands for non-living things is said to be the **neuter gender**. Nouns of the neuter gender are neither masculine nor feminine.

C. Write these nouns in the correct columns.

shoes	telephone	parent	table	Principal	trousers
writer	computer	saucepan	swimmer	purse	lawyer
tourist	pillow	tutor	shirt	child	stars
friend	neighbour	spoon	enemy	engineer	desk
wall	nurse	egg	carpet	relative	cook

Common Gender	Neuter Gender
parent, principal,	shoes, telephone,