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Nouns: Gender

A ▶ A noun that denotes a male is said to be of the **masculine gender**.

Nouns like *boy, man, brother, father, king, nephew, dog, etc.*, are of the masculine gender.

▶ A noun that denotes a female is said to be of the **feminine gender**.

Nouns like *girl, woman, sister, mother, queen, niece, bitch, etc.*, are of the feminine gender.

▶ A noun that can denote both a male and a female is said to be of the **common gender**.

Nouns like *baby, child, parent, teacher, pupil, student, person, doctor, player, cousin, friend, neighbour, bird, etc.*, are of the common gender.

▶ A noun that denotes a non-living thing is said to be of the **neuter gender**. (The word *neuter* means *neither*, that is neither male nor female.)

Nouns like *book, pen, chair, car, wood, gold, school, etc.*, are of the neuter gender.

B Collective nouns like *crew, flock, class, army* denote collections of living beings. For example, *class* is a collection of students and students are living beings. Similarly, *army* is a collection of soldiers and soldiers are living beings too. But collective nouns are thought to be of the neuter gender.

▶ **Collective nouns** are thought to be of the **neuter gender**.

C Formation of the Feminines of Nouns

There are three ways of forming the feminines of nouns.

1. By adding **-ess** to the masculine:

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
heir	heiress	host	hostess	priest	priestess
baron	baroness	lion	lioness		

Sometimes the spellings of the words may have to be altered slightly before adding the **-ess**.

duke	duchess	hunter	huntress	prince	princess
emperor	empress	master	mistress	tiger	tigress
god	goddess	governor	governess	waiter	waitress

2. By using an entirely different word:

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
boy	girl	fox	vixen	monk	nun
brother	sister	gander	goose	nephew	niece
bull	cow	gentleman	lady	papa	mama
cock	hen	horse	mare	ram	ewe
colt	filly	husband	wife	sir	madam
dog	bitch	king	queen	son	daughter
earl	countess	lord	lady	stag	hind
father	mother	man	woman	uncle	aunt

3. See how we form the feminine of nouns that are compound words:

fisherman	fisherwoman	milkman	milkmaid	peacock	peahen
grandfather	grandmother	stepfather	stepmother	he-bear	she-bear
man-servant	maid-servant	landlord	landlady	he-goat	she-goat
washerman	washerwoman	stepson	stepdaughter		

D Remember the masculine and feminine forms of these nouns:

bridegroom	bride	lad	lass	widower	widow
hero	heroine	Mr	Mrs		

E The following nouns are of the common gender:

anchor	companion	parent	reporter
announcer	cousin	person	student
baby	friend	player	teacher
child	organiser	pupil	tutor

F The following words have gone out of use:

authoress poetess actress

The words *author*, *poet* and *actor* are now supposed to be of the common gender.

G It is now common to refer to pet animals and domestic animals like *dog*, *cat*, *cow*, etc., as *he* or *she*.

Kitty was little Arushi's pet cat. *She* slept in the same bed as Arushi.

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY
CLASS - V, SUBJECT - ENGLISH I.

CHAPTER - 5 - NOUNS: GENDER

TOPIC: MASCULINE GENDER

03.07.2020. FEMININE GENDER

COMMON GENDER

NEUTER GENDER.

EXERCISE: 1.

Give the feminine gender of these nouns.

1. Waiter
2. Monk
3. Stag
4. Cock
5. Colt
6. Master
7. Earl
8. Milkman
9. Duke
10. Le-bear
11. Jander
12. Governor

EXERCISE: 2.

Give the masculine gender of these nouns.

1. Mare
2. Countess
3. Vixen
4. Wife
5. She-goat
6. Queen
7. Aunt
8. Madam

Now let me discuss the answers to the questions of practice session published on 24.06.2020 (WEDNESDAY)

EXERCISE - 1.

1. Can you conclude these assignments?
2. I would like to buy those games.
3. I have not been to those sites.
4. Those apples were very juicy.
5. Ram will buy these houses.
6. Look at these amazing relics.
7. Who planted these saplings?

EXERCISE - 2.

1. Is this your sandwich?
2. This graphic novel is great.
3. How old is the puppy next door?
4. This gentleman isn't from my town.
5. He/She is from Florence.
6. This picture is awful.
7. Is this soldier on holiday?

EXERCISE - 3.

1. Mother - Common Noun
Story - Common Noun
Tenali Raman - Proper Noun
2. Love - Abstract Noun
grandmother - Common Noun
Kindness - Abstract Noun.
3. book - Common Noun
Robinson Crusoe - Proper Noun.
4. Chris, Santa - Proper Noun
Chimney - Common Noun.
5. boy - Common Noun
pet dog - Common Noun.
6. bunch of keys : Collective Noun.