



NOUNS: GENDER

A ▶ A noun that denotes a male is said to be of the **masculine gender**.
Nouns like *boy, man, brother, father, king, 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, 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**.

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
bull	cow	gander	goose	monk	nun
cock	hen	gentleman	lady	nephew	niece
colt	filly	horse	mare	ram	ewe
dog	bitch	husband	wife	sir	madam
earl	countess	king	queen	stag	hind
fox	vixen	lord	lady	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-goat	she-goat
man-servant	maid-servant	landlord	landlady	stepson	stepdaughter

D Remember the masculine and feminine forms of these nouns:

bridegroom	bride	lad	lass	widower	widow
hero	heroine	Mr	Mrs		

The following nouns are of the common gender:

child	companion	cousin	friend
parent	person	player	pupil
reporter	student	teacher	tutor

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

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY.
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Let us practice some more different
Exercises based on Nouns Gender

EXERCISE : 3

Mention the gender of the underlined
nouns.

1. Richard invited his friend to his
new house
2. The wife surprised her husband with
tickets to the stadium.
3. The teacher has taken her class
to a museum
4. The player retired from the match
because of an injury.

EXERCISE : 4.

Rewrite these sentences changing the
underlined nouns to their opposite
gender. Make other changes where
necessary:

1. The milkman had only one cow left
in his shed
2. The Duchess attended the king's ball.
3. The hunter spared the stag's life
4. Mr. Khanna took his bride to Italy
for a vacation.

Now let me share the answers of the
exercise published on 3.7.20 (FRIDAY)

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ANSWERS.

EXERCISE : 1.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Waiter - Waitress | 5. Colt - Filly. |
| 2. Monk - Nun. | 6. Master - Mistress |
| 3. Stag - Hind | 7. Earl - Countess |
| 4. Cock - Hen | 8. Milkman - Milkmaid. |
| 9. Duke - Duchess | 10. He-bear - She-bear |
| 11. Gander - goose | 12. Governor - governess |

EXERCISE : 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mare - Horse | 5. She-goat - He-goat |
| 2. Countess - Count | 6. Queen - King |
| 3. Vixen - Fox | 7. Aunt - Uncle |
| 4. Wife - Husband | 8. Madam - Sir. |

In the next class we shall be discussing the end exercises of this chapter following the answers of today's question.