

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**.

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
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		

E The following nouns are of the common gender:

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

F The following words have gone out of use:

authoress

poetess

actress

G 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*, 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.

8.7.20 CHAPTER - 5. NOUNS: GENDER.

TOPIC - EXERCISE PRACTICE

Let us practice few more exercises based on Nouns Gender.

EXERCISE : 5. Rewrite the sentences by changing the opposite Genders.

1. The queen told her story to a man
2. The priest blessed the heirress to the throne
3. The prince had never seen a white peacock.
4. Mrs Chopra and her husband went to attend the marriage.
5. My niece has bought a small dog.

EXERCISE : 6.

Write the opposite gender of the given words.

1. Bull
2. Son
3. Fisherman
4. Gentleman
5. Nephew
6. Earl
7. Nun
8. Ram
9. Colt
10. horse.

Now let me share the answers of Ex-3, 4 published on 6.7.20 (Monday).

Ex-3

1. Richard - Masculine
friend - Common
2. wife - Feminine
husband - Masculine
tickets - Neuter
3. Teacher - ~~Common~~ Common
class - Neuter
Museum - Neuter
4. player - Common, match - Neuter
injury - Neuter.

Ex-4.

1. The milkmaid had only one cow left in his shed.
2. The duke attended the queen's ball.
3. The huntress spared the hind's life.
4. Mrs. Khanna took her bridegroom to Italy for a vacation.

In the next class of English I we shall start ch-7. Adjectives following the answer of today's question.