Nouns : Gender

Definition of Gender in Nouns

Gender in grammar refers to the classification of nouns based on sex or the absence of it. There are four types of genders:

i. Masculine Gender

Refers to males.

- ❖ **Examples:** man, boy, king, uncle, father, lion

ii. Feminine Gender

Refers to females.

- ❖ **Examples:** woman, girl, queen, aunt, mother, lioness

iii. Common Gender

Refers to both males and females.

- ❖ **Examples:** doctor, teacher, student, cousin, friend, baby
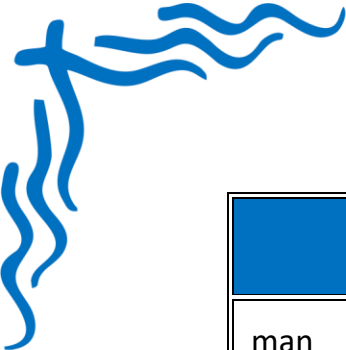- • These nouns can refer to either gender depending on the context.

iv. Neuter Gender

Refers to non-living things (things without life).

- ❖ **Examples:** book, pen, kite, ball, bat, doll, table
- • Changing Masculine to Feminine Nouns
- • There are three main methods:
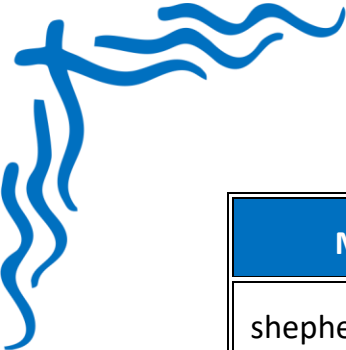
1. Using a Different Word Entirely

Masculine	Feminine
boy	girl
father	mother

Masculine	Feminine
man	woman
son	daughter
uncle	aunt
king	queen
husband	wife
sir	madam
nephew	niece
brother	sister

2. **By Adding "-ess" to the Masculine Form.**

Masculine	Feminine
lion	lioness
host	hostess
actor	actress
poet	poetess
master	mistress
god	goddess
hunter	huntress
priest	priestess
count	countess

Masculine	Feminine
shepherd	shepherdess
jew	jewess

3. Changing a Part of Compound Words.

Masculine	Feminine
stepfather	stepmother
grandfather	grandmother
peacock	peahen
gentleman	gentlewoman

Pronouns and Gender

He – used for masculine gender.

She – used for feminine gender.
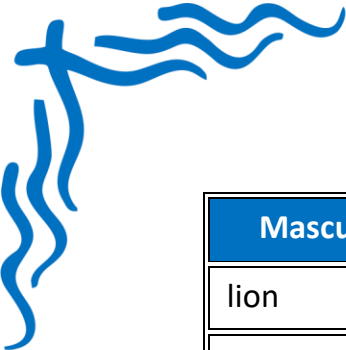
It – used for neuter gender.

Examples

- The prince went into the hall. He ate his breakfast.
- The princess went into the hall. She ate her breakfast.
- The uncle loved his nephew very much.
- The aunt loved her niece very much.

Exercise Types in Chapter

- Matching masculine and feminine pairs.
- Changing gender in full sentences.
- Identifying gender (M, F, C, N).
- Sorting nouns into categories.

Quick Gender Classification

Masculine	Feminine	Common	Neuter
lion	lioness	teacher	table
man	woman	friend	book
king	queen	student	pencil
boy	girl	cousin	door
cock	hen	neighbour	bat
wizard	witch	baby	bus

Points to Remember
- Nouns like doctor, teacher, and child are common gender.
- It is used for non-living things, which belong to the neuter gender.
- Some feminine forms are made by adding -ess, but some change completely.