Nouns: Gender

Definition

In English grammar, gender is the classification of nouns based on sex or lack of it. There are four types of genders:

1. Masculine Gender

• A noun that refers to a male.

Examples: boy, king, man, lion, uncle, father

2. Feminine Gender

• A noun that refers to a female.

Examples: girl, queen, woman, lioness, aunt, mother

3. Common Gender

• A noun that refers to either male or female.

Examples: friend, teacher, student, child, cousin, doctor

4. Neuter Gender

• A noun that refers to non-living things (neither male nor female).

Examples: table, book, rock, pen, phone, wall

Identification Activity (from the book)

You can identify the gender of the noun using initials:

• M for Masculine

C for Common

• F for Feminine

N for Neuter

Examples:

• lion – M

doctor – C

• aunt - F

• book – N

Changing Masculine to Feminine Gender

By adding -ess:

Masculine	Feminine
prince	princess
lion	lioness
actor	actress
god	goddess
waiter	waitress

By changing the word part (compound nouns):

Masculine	Feminine
brother-in-law	sister-in-law
step-father	step-mother
man-servant	maid-servant
he-goat	she-goat

With different words for male/female:

Masculine	Feminine
king	queen
father	mother
monk	nun
dog	bitch
bull	cow

Practice Section (As in the textbook)

Write the opposite gender of these:

- Horse → _____
- Lioness → _____
- Aunt → _____
- Tiger → _____
- King → _____
- Maid servant → _____
- Master → _____
- Waitress → _____
- Lady → _____
- Poet → _____