

# 9. The Noun: Gender

**Do as directed:**

- (1) Write the names of four males whom you know.

John, Michael, David, Robert.

- (2) Write the names of four females whom you know.

Mary, Jennifer, Linda, Patricia.



Ram

- (3) Write the names of four things which you know.

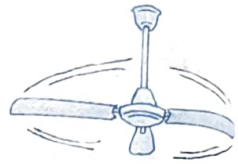
Table, Chair, Book, Computer

Therefore nouns can be found in different forms:

- (1) **Masculine Gender** is a noun which denotes a **male member**.  
e.g. Ram, Hari.
- (2) **Feminine Gender** is a noun which denotes a **female member**.  
e.g. Sheela, Tina, mother.
- (3) **Neuter Gender** is a noun which denotes names of **non-living things**.  
e.g. table, chair, fan.
- (4) **Common Gender** is a noun which denotes **either a male member or a female member**.  
e.g. baby, bird, cat, calf, child, cousin, friend, teacher, pupil, cook, etc.



Sheela



Fan



Bird

**Material Nouns, Abstract Nouns and Collective Nouns are considered as Neuter Gender.**

- (a) Words or objects which show strength or violence are sometimes regarded as males.  
e.g. the sun, winter, summer, death, time, etc.
- (b) Words or objects which show beauty, gentleness, etc. are sometimes regarded as females.  
e.g. the moon, the earth, spring, nature, peace, etc.
- (c) 'She' pronoun is always associated with 'a ship', sometimes it is used with 'a train' and 'a country'.

**To change from masculine gender to feminine gender:**

- (1) Add the suffix 'ess' to the masculine noun.  
e.g. author – autho**ress**, host – host**ess**, heir – hei**ress**, giant – giant**ess**, lion – lion**ess**, poet – poet**ess**, shepherd – shepher**dess**.
- (2) Drop the vowel and add 'ess' as a suffix to the masculine noun.  
e.g. actor – act**ress**, conductor – conduct**ress**, director – direct**ress**, founder – found**ress**, hunter – hunt**ress**, instructor – instruct**ress**, negro – neg**ress**, tiger – tig**ress**, traitor – trait**ress**, waiter – wait**ress**.
- (3) Add 'ess' in a different manner to the masculine noun.  
e.g. emperor – em**press**, master – mist**ress**, governor – govern**ess**, murderer – murder**ess**, abbot – abb**ess**, duke – duch**ess**.
- (4) Change the 'before' or 'after' word of a compound masculine noun.  
e.g. he - bear – **she** - bear, bull calf – **cow** calf, buck rabbit – **doe** rabbit.
- (5) Entirely change the word of the masculine noun.

bachelor	–	spinster/maid	drone	–	bee	man	–	woman
bull (ox)	–	cow	earl (count)	–	countess	master	–	miss
boar	–	sow	father	–	mother	nephew	–	niece

boy	-	girl	gander	-	goose	papa	-	mama
brother	-	sister	gentleman	-	lady	ram	-	ewe
buck	-	doe	king	-	queen	son	-	daughter
bullock	-	heifer	horse	-	mare	stag	-	hind
bridegroom	-	bride	hero	-	heroine	sir	-	madam
cock	-	hen	husband	-	wife	uncle	-	aunt
colt	-	filly	lord	-	lady	widower	-	widow
dog	-	bitch	lad	-	lass	wizard	-	witch
drake	-	duck	mr	-	mrs			

3) Certain foreign masculine nouns form their feminines as follows:

administrator	-	administratrix
sultan	-	sultana
czar	-	czarina
viceroi	-	vicereine
executor	-	executrix
prosecutor	-	prosecutrix

7) Pronouns in the masculine and feminine genders are as follows:

Masculine	Feminine
he	she
his	her
him	her

1. Rewrite the following sentences by changing the gender. Do this exercise in your notebook. Make changes only if necessary:

- The lad came running and sat on his mother's lap. <sup>father's lap.</sup> The lass came running and sat on her <sup>father's lap.</sup>
- A drone is smaller than a duck. A bee is smaller than a drake.
- The two witches gave three wishes to the Prince of Scotland. <sup>to the Princess of Scotland.</sup> The two wizards gave three wishes to the Princess of Scotland.
- The Duke of Venice announced the czar to be the forthcoming King.
- The viceroi and his friends lived in splendour in the olden days.
- The vet asked the landlord to keep pet horses, colts, cow calf, doe rabbits and peacocks in his farm.
- A shepherd saw his rams, jack ass and hen-sparrow grazing here and there.
- The prophet, the priest and the mayor were Jews by birth.
- The emperor ordered the nun and young lady to serve the abbot as he was a guest at their place.
- The hunter's mistress asked for a hart, a boar and a heifer.
- The Duchess of Venice announced the czarina to be the forthcoming <sup>Queen.</sup>
- The vicereine and her friends lived in splendour in the olden days.
- The vet asked the landlady to keep pet mares, fillies, bull calf, buck rabbits and peahens in her farm.
- A shepherdess saw her ewes, jenny ass, and cock-sparrow grazing here & there.
- The prophetess, the priestess, and the mayoress were Jews by birth.
- The empress ordered the monk and young man to serve the abbess as she was a guest at their place.
- The hunter's master asked for a hind, a sow and a bullock.

2. Solve the following puzzle with gender opposites:

R	O	L	E	H	C	A	B	W	S	R
W	Y	W	A	I	T	E	R	P	T	P
C	M	I	L	K	M	A	I	D	T	K
M	S	D	O	E	M	E	D	A	K	C
X	H	O	S	T	A	S	E	U	X	U
L	C	W	O	X	R	Y	W	G	O	D
P	G	O	O	S	E	X	P	H	W	Z
X	Y	R	R	W	W	G	A	T	S	Z
K	W	T	B	A	W	Y	K	E	W	E
X	M	U	R	D	E	R	E	R	X	Y

**Clues:**

- (1) spinster ✓
- (2) buck ✓
- (3) drake ✓
- (4) hind ✓
- (5) gander ✓
- (6) goddess ✓
- (7) hostess ✓
- (8) waitress ✓
- (9) murderess ✓
- (10) son ✓
- (11) bridegroom ✓
- (12) widower ✓
- (13) milkman ✓
- (14) ram ✓
- (15) horse ✓