

Gender

A **boy** is a **male**.

A **girl** is a **female**.

The grouping of words according to sex is called **gender**.

Nouns which name **males** belong to the **masculine** gender.

Nouns which name **females** belong to the **feminine** gender.

Masculine	Feminine
bridegroom	bride
cockerel	hen
dog	bitch
duke	duchess
earl	countess
emperor	empress
fox	vixen
gander	goose
headmaster	headmistress
hero	heroine
host	hostess
landlord	landlady
monk	nun
prince	princess
son	daughter
stallion	mare
tiger	tigress
uncle	aunt

A Write the **feminine** gender of:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1 hero | 7 uncle |
| 2 dog | 8 son |
| 3 fox | 9 headmaster |
| 4 monk | 10 host |
| 5 prince | 11 stallion |
| 6 earl | 12 emperor |

B Write the **masculine** gender of:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1 aunt | 7 mare |
| 2 bride | 8 headmistress |
| 3 goose | 9 tigress |
| 4 hen | 10 duchess |
| 5 empress | 11 vixen |
| 6 landlady | 12 nun |

C Change each noun of the **masculine** gender to the **feminine** gender.

- 1 The duke is eighty years old.
- 2 As the children passed, the gander hissed at them.
- 3 The rider led the stallion to the stable.
- 4 We were welcomed by the landlord of The Swan Hotel.

D Write the word which is missing from each sentence.

- 1 The ____ and countess are abroad on holiday.
- 2 There were three hens and a ____ in the farmyard.
- 3 The ____ waited in vain for the bride to arrive at the church.
- 4 There were four puppies; one bitch and three ____.

E Masculine or feminine?
Use your dictionary to find out.

- | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1 heifer | 2 colt | 3 widower |
|----------|--------|-----------|

