

Gender

English language has a number of nouns which refer to males or females or both and some lifeless or non-living objects. There are four genders.

- I. Words that refer to males are called **masculine gender**—boy, man etc.
- II. Words that refer to females are called **feminine gender**—girl, woman etc.
- III. Names used for either males or females belong to the **common gender**--sheep, teacher, child etc.
- IV. Things that have no life and neither masculine nor feminine are of **neuter gender**.

All plants, trees, and flowers belong to the neuter gender. Generally abstract and uncountable nouns are considered neuter gender.

Formation of feminine gender from masculine gender:

- - ess is added without any change of the main masculine form.
Lion-lion**ess** poet-poet**ess**
- by adding **-ess** after dropping **-o** and **-e**.
tiger-tig**ress** director-direct**ress**
- by adding **-ess** after certain slight changes in masculine form.
Master- mistress god- goddess
- by adding **-ine, -a, -ix**
hero- heroine executor-executrix
- by using a word before or after root word.
Man-servant---maid-servant/woman servant
Landlord-landlady
- some words are made masculine by adding suffix with feminine.
Bridegroom—bride widower—widow
- by using separate word for masculine and feminine.
Father-mother sir-madam cock-hen etc.