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# Grammatical gender

The grammatical gender of German nouns can in many cases be **guessed (with varying accuracy)**.

## Suffixes and prefixes denoting grammatical gender

grammatical gender	masculine	feminine	neuter
corresponding article	der	die	das
suffixes	-ling	-in -heit -keit -schaft -ung	-tum -nis -chen -lein -sel
suffixes of Latin or Greek origin	-ant -ist -ismus	-ion -tät -ie -enz	-ment -ium
prefixes			Ge-

### Examples

masculine:

Frühling "spring"	from	früh "early"
Denunziant "denunciator"	compare	denunciante
Sozialist "socialist"	compare	socialista
Sozialismus "socialism"	compare	socialismo

feminine:

Herrin "mistress"	from	Herr "master"
Schönheit "beauty"	from	schön "beautiful"
Ehrlichkeit "honesty"	from	ehrlich "honest"
Knechtschaft "servitude"	from	Knecht "slave"
Schreibung "spelling"	from	schreiben "to write"

Faszination "fascination"	compare	fascinação
Majestät "majesty"	compare	majestade
Phantasie "fantasy"	compare	fantasia
Präsenz "presence"	compare	presença

neuter:

Brauchtum "all the customs"	from	Brauch "a custom"
Zeugnis "testimony, certificate"	from	zeugen "to testify"
Hündchen "little dog"	from	Hund "dog"
Kindlein "little child"	from	Kind "child"
Rätsel "riddle"	from	raten "to guess"
Firmament "firmament"	compare	firmamento
Mysterium "mystery"	compare	mistério
Gerede "gossip"	from	reden "to talk"

Suffixes denoting grammatical gender depending on the meaning of the word

grammatical gender	masculine	feminine	neuter
corresponding article	der	die	das
suffixes with meaning	-er (someone who does something, e.g.	-e (abstractions, e.g. Liebe "love")	-en (nominalized infinitives,
e.g.	Bäcker "baker", or		Backen
"baking")	someone who is from some place, e.g. Berliner "man from Berlin")	-t (abstractions, e.g. Flucht "escape")	
		-ei (locations, e.g. Bäckerei "place where people bake")	
		-lei (abstractions, e.g. Schmeichelei	

		"flattery"	

Grammatical gender being associated with categories

grammatical gender	masculine	feminine	neuter
categories	male persons	female persons	names of
animal children	male animals	female animals	fractions
	big/dangerous animals	small/harmless animals	
		names of birds	
		names of trees	
		names of German rivers	

Examples

masculine:

Mann "man"
Stier "bull"
Wal "whale"

feminine:

Frau "woman"
Kuh "cow"
Maus "mouse"
Amsel "blackbird"
Birke "birch"
Donau "Danube"

neuter:

Fohlen "foal"
Drittel "a third"