

View this document as [PDF](#) , or download this document as [PDF](#) .

[Table of Contents](#)

## 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			
definite article	der	die	das
-----	-----	-----	-----
suffixes	-ling	-in	-tum
		-heit	-nis
		-keit	-chen
		-schaft	-lein
		-ung	-sel
-----	-----	-----	-----
suffixes of Latin or			
Greek origin	-ant	-ion	-ment
	-ist	-tät	-ium
	-ismus	-ie	
		-enz	

-----	-----	-----	-----
prefixes			Ge-

## Examples

masculine:

der Frühling "the spring"	from	früh "early"
---------------------------	------	--------------

masculine (of Latin or Greek origin):

der Denunziant "the denunciator"	compare	el (!) denunciante
der Sozialist "the socialist"	compare	el (!) socialista
der Sozialismus "the socialism"	compare	el (!) socialismo

feminine:

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

feminine (of Latin or Greek origin):

die Faszination "the fascination"	compare	la (!) fascinación
die Majestät "the majesty"	compare	la (!) majestad
die Phantasie "the fantasy"	compare	la (!) fantasía
die Präsenz "the presence"	compare	la (!) presencia

neuter:

das Brauchtum "all the customs"	from	Brauch "(a) custom"
das Zeugnis "the testimony/certificate"	from	zeugen "to testify"
das Hündchen "the little dog"	from	Hund "dog"
das Kindlein "the little child"	from	Kind "child"
das Rätsel "the riddle"	from	raten "to guess"

neuter (of Latin or Greek origin):

das Firmament "the firmament"	compare	el (!) firmamento
das Mysterium "the mystery"	compare	el (!) misterio

neuter (with Prefix):

das Gerede "the gossip"	from	reden "to talk"
-------------------------	------	-----------------

## Suffixes denoting grammatical gender depending on the meaning of the word

grammatical						
gender		masculine		feminine		neuter

corresponding			
definite			
article	der	die	das
suffixes			
with meaning	-er	-e	-en
	(someone who does	(abstractions,	(nominalized
	something, e.g.	e.g. Liebe "love")	infinitives, e.g.
	Bäcker "baker", or		Backen "baking")
	someone who is from		
	some place, e.g.		
	Berliner "man from		
	Berlin")		
		-t	
		(abstractions,	
		e.g. Macht	
		"(a) might/force")	
		-ei	
		(locations, e.g.	
		Bäckerei	
		"bakery")	
		-ei	
		(abstractions, e.g.	
		Schmeichelei	

	"flattery")	

## Grammatical gender being associated with categories

grammatical			
gender	masculine	feminine	neuter
-----	-----	-----	-----
corresponding			
definite			
article	der	die	das
-----	-----	-----	-----
categories	male persons	female persons	animal children
	male animals	female animals	fractions
	big/dangerous animals	small/harmless animals	
		birds	
		trees	
		German rivers	

## Examples

masculine:

```
der Mann "the man" (male person)
der Stier "the bull" (male animal)
```

der Wal "the whale" (big/dangerous animal)

feminine:

die Frau "the woman" (female person)

die Kuh "the cow" (female animal)

die Maus "the mouse" (small/harmless animal)

die Amsel "the blackbird" (bird)

die Birke "the birch" (tree)

die Donau "the Danube" (German river)

neuter:

das Fohlen "the foal" (animal child)

das Drittel "the third" (fraction)

 [Table of Contents](#)