



**CLASS IX & X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART I**  
**LESSON 5 - GENDER**

**NOTES**

**Gender** is a grammatical feature indicating the condition of being male or female. Gender refers to sex and we know that there are two sexes, male and female. A Noun may belong to the male sex or female sex. It may also belong to both the sexes or to neither of them.

**Thus, there are four Genders in English. They are:**

- 1. Masculine Gender:** Nouns denoting male persons or animals are said to be of Masculine Gender.  
**Example:** man, lion, father, king etc.
- 2. Feminine Gender:** Nouns denoting female persons or animals are said to be of Feminine Gender.  
**Example:** woman, lioness, mother, queen etc.
- 3. Common Gender:** Nouns denoting no definite sex but can be either of the sexes are said to be of Common Gender.  
**Example:** teacher, parent, child, servant etc.
- 4. Neuter Gender:** Nouns denoting inanimate things denoting neither sex are said to be of the Neuter Gender.  
**Example:** book, pen, room, chair etc.

**Notes:**

- 1. All Material and Abstract Nouns are said to be of Neuter Gender because they denote lifeless things and qualities.**
- 2. Collective Nouns are Neuter Gender because they denote collections which are supposed not to have lives of their own.**

**Formation of Feminine Gender from Masculine Gender:**

- A. Most of the Masculine Nouns have their Feminine forms.**

**Examples:**

Masculine	Feminine
Man	Woman
Bull	Cow



B. Some Feminine Nouns are formed by adding 'ess' to the Nouns in Masculine Gender.

**Examples:**

Masculine	Feminine
Host	Hostess
Poet	Poetess

C. In case of some Nouns, Feminine Gender is formed by dropping the Vowel of the last syllable and adding 'ess'.

**Example:**

Masculine	Feminine
Actor	Actress
Waiter	waitress

D. Again, in case of some Nouns, Feminine Gender is formed in some irregular ways even though 'ess' is added.

**Example:**

Masculine	Feminine
Master	Mistress
Emperor	Empress
Duke	Duchess

E. Some Feminine Nouns are formed by changing or adding a word indicating sex before or after the Masculine Gender.

**Examples:**

Masculine	Feminine
Manservant	Maidservant
Bull-calf	Cow-calf

F. Some Masculine Nouns have no corresponding Feminine forms.

**Examples:** general, captain, knight, judge etc.

G. Some Feminine Nouns also have no corresponding Masculine forms.

**Examples:** brunette, siren, virgin, prude etc.

H. Sometimes, inanimate objects or abstract qualities are personified so that they possess the qualities of human beings. Such objects or qualities are regarded as:

i. **Masculine Nouns** when they denote *strength, might, courage and greatness*.

**Examples:** war, time, anger, death etc.



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ii. **Feminine Nouns** when they denote *beauty, tenderness, gentleness* etc.  
**Examples:** peace, modesty, hope, night, nature etc.

I. The names of *ships, countries and fine arts* are generally said to be of the Feminine Gender.

**Examples:**

i. The Titanic sank with almost all her passengers.

ii. Manipur will always remember the sacrifice of her brave sons and daughters.

J. Young children and animals are generally treated as Neuter Gender.

**Examples:**

i. The child is crying for its mother.

ii. The dog barks at its rival.

K. There are many Nouns of Common Gender which can be used for both the sexes. The following are some of such Nouns.

**Examples:**

Common	Masculine	Feminine
Child	Boy	Girl
Student	(male) student	(female) student

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