

# 6

## Gender

**What is a Gender ?** : The form of noun/pronoun word by which we identify whether it is male or female or neutral, is called Gender. **As** : emperor (male), empress (female)

**Types of Gender** : There are four genders in English language :

1. Masculine gender
2. Feminine gender
3. Common gender
4. Neuter gender

1. **Masculine Gender** : Such nouns which refer to male persons/animals are called masculine gender nouns. **As** : man, boy, actor, king, peacock etc.
2. **Feminine Gender** : Such nouns which refer to female persons/animals are called feminine gender nouns. **As** : woman, girl, actress, queen, peahen etc.
3. **Common Gender** : These are such noun words which can be used for both male and female persons/animals. **As** : human, child, ruler, cattle, bird etc.
4. **Neuter Gender** : Such nouns which refer to inanimate or non-living objects are called neuter gender nouns. **As** : mountain, pen, car, aeroplane etc.

Gender related questions are asked in your examination. In such questions, you are asked to convert masculine gender into feminine gender or feminine gender into masculine gender. Sometimes you are asked to fill proper gender words in the blank spaces.

**Q. 1. Complete the following sentences by filling in proper gender words from the brackets.**

1. Maharana Pratap was a great ..... (king/queen)
2. My friend Sanjeev is a good ..... (girl/boy)
3. We get milk from ..... (cows/bulls)
4. My mother is an ideal ..... (man/woman)

**Ans.** 1. king 2. boy 3. cow 4. woman.

**Q. 2. Change the following masculine gender nouns into feminine gender nouns.**

- (a) father                      (b) bull                      (c) actor                      (d) god

**Ans.** (a) mother (b) cow (c) actress (d) goddess.

**Rule 1.** By changing the word. As :

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
boy	girl
brother	sister
father	mother
uncle	aunt
nephew	niece
king	queen

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
sir	madam
bull	cow
horse	mare
cock	hen
dog	bitch
son	daughter

**Rule 2.** By adding 'ess' to the word to make its Feminine Gender. As :

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
author	authoress
lion	lioness

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
heir	heiress
poet	poetess

**Note :** Nowadays, we use 'author' or 'poet' in place of 'authoress' or 'poetess'.

**Rule 3.** By removing the last vowel and adding 'ess' to form Feminine Gender. As :

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
actor	actress

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
tiger	tigress

**Rule 4.** By way of adding 'ess' arbitrarily or by inserting 'ss' or 's', Feminine Gender is formed. As :

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
emperor	empress
Mr	Mrs
prince	princess

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
master	mistress
god	goddess

**Rule 5.** Some Feminine Genders are not formed as per above stated rules. As :

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
bridegroom	bride
widower	widow

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
hero	heroine

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
grandfather	grandmother
peacock	peahen
step-son	step-daughter

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
man-servant	maid-servant
washerman	washer-woman

**Rule 7.** Masculine Gender or Feminine Gender of a pronoun are quite distinct. **As :**

Masculine	Feminine
he	she
himself	herself

Masculine	Feminine
him	her
his	her

### Important words and their Feminine Genders

Masculine	Feminine
grandfather	grandmother
men (plural)	women (plural)
son	daughter
brother	sister
husband	wife
male	female
uncle	aunt
prince	princess
hero	heroine
washerman	washer-woman
poet	poetess
peacock	peahen
lion	lioness
nephew	niece
emperor	empress
host	hostess
gentleman	lady

Masculine	Feminine
man	woman
boy	girl
father	mother
himself	herself
king	queen
master	mistress
sir	madam
god	goddess
headmaster	headmistress
dog	bitch
horse	mare
bull	cow
tiger	tigress
milkman	milkmaid
actor	actress
fox	vixen