

I'm not a robot

































**Gender** (For some instances of this, see Latin declension.) A concrete example is provided by the German word *See*, which has two possible genders: when it is masculine (meaning "lake") its genitive singular form is *Sees*, but when it is feminine (meaning "sea"), the genitive is *See*. Because feminine nouns do not take the genitive -s, Gender is sometimes reflected in other ways: In Welsh, gender marking is mostly lost on nouns; however, Welsh has initial mutation, where the final consonant of a word changes into another in certain conditions. Gender is one of the factors that can cause one form of mutation (soft mutation). For instance, the word *merch* "girl" changes into *ferch* after the definite article. This only occurs with feminine singular nouns: *mab* "son" remains unchanged. Adjectives are affected by gender in a similar way.[22] Soft initial mutation caused by gender in Welsh Default After definite article With adjectiv Masculine singular *mab* "son" *myb* "the son" *mab mawr* "the big son" Feminine singular *merch* "girl" *ferch* "the girl" *ferch fawr* "the big girl" Additionally, in many languages, gender is often closely correlated with the basic unmodified form (lemma) of the noun, and sometimes a noun can be modified to produce (for example) masculine and feminine words of similar meaning. (See below.) Agreement, or concord, is a grammatical process in which certain words change their form so that values of certain grammatical categories match those of related words. Gender is one of the categories which frequently require agreement. In past cases, nouns may be considered the "triggers" of the process, because they have an inherent gender, whereas related words that change their form to match the gender of the noun can be considered the "target" of these changes.[9] These related words can be, depending on the language: determiners, pronouns, numerals, quantifiers, possessives, adjectives, past and passive participles, verbs, adverbs, complementizers, and adpositions. Gender class may be marked on the noun itself, but can also be marked on other constituents in a noun phrase or sentence. If the noun is explicitly marked, both trigger and target may feature similar alternations. These languages may only have different genders and inflections in the referent between people and inanimate objects, but even this distinction is often absent. In written Finnish, for example, *hänen* is used for "her" and "she" and so for "it", but in the colloquial language so is usually used for "he" and "she" as well. (For more on these different types of pronoun, see Third-person pronoun.) Issues may arise in languages with gender-specific pronouns in cases when the gender of the referent is unknown or not specified; this is a matter that arises frequently in relation to gender-neutral language, as with English usage of Singular they. In some cases, the gender of a pronoun is not marked in the form of the pronoun itself, but is marked on other words by way of agreement. Thus the French word for "I" is *je*, regardless of who is speaking; but this word becomes feminine or masculine depending on the sex of the speaker, as may be reflected through adjective agreement: *je suis fort* ("I am strong", spoken/written by a female); *je suis fort* (the same but by a male). In null-subject languages (and in some elliptical expressions in other languages), such agreement may take place even though the pronoun does not in fact appear. 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A similar, apparently arbitrary gender assignment may need to be made in the case of indefinite pronouns, where the referent is generally unknown. In this case the question is usually not which pronoun to use, but which gender to assign a given pronoun to (for such purposes as adjective agreement). For example, the French pronouns *quelqu'un* ("someone"), *personne* ("no-one") and *quelque chose* ("something") are all treated as masculine—this is in spite of the fact that the last two correspond to feminine nouns (personne meaning "person", and chose meaning "thing").[27] (For other situations in which such a "default" gender assignment may be required, see below.) The natural gender of a noun, pronoun or noun phrase is a gender to which it would be expected to belong based on relevant attributes of its referent. Although grammatical gender can coincide with natural gender, it does not need to. This usually means masculine or feminine, depending on the referent's sex; for example in Spanish a *mujer* ("woman") is feminine whereas *hombre* ("man") is masculine; these attributions occur solely due to the semantically inherent gender class of each noun [citation needed] This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "grammatical gender" different from natural gender - news - newspapers - books - scholar - JSTOR (June 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this message) The grammatical gender of a noun does not always coincide with its natural gender. An example of this is the German word *Mädchen* ("girl"); this is derived from *Magd* ("maiden"), unalated to *Mäd-* with the diminutive suffix *-chen*, and this suffix always makes the noun grammatically neuter. Hence the grammatical gender of *Mädchen* is neuter, although its natural gender is feminine (because it refers to a female person). Other examples include: Old English *wif* (neuter) and *wifmann* (masculine), meaning "woman" German *Weib* (neuter), meaning "woman" (the word is now pejorative and generally replaced with *die Frau*, originally "lady", feminine of obsolete *der Fro*, meaning "lord") Irish *caillín* (masculine) meaning "girl", and *stail* (feminine) meaning "stallion" Portuguese *mulherão* (masculine), meaning "voluptuous woman" Scottish Gaelic *bhoireannach* (masculine), meaning "woman" Slovenian *klade* (neuter), meaning "girl" Polish *babzyszy* (masculine), meaning "unpleasant (usually old and ugly) woman" Czech *děvče* (neuter), meaning "a young girl" Normally, such exceptions are a small minority. When a noun with conflicting natural and grammatical gender is the antecedent of a pronoun, it may not be clear which gender of pronoun is a certain tendency to keep the grammatic gender when a close back-reference is made, but in other cases the referent is further away. For example, in German, the sentences "The girl has come home from school. She is now doing her homework" can be translated in two ways: *Das Mädchen (n.) ist aus der Schule gekommen. Es (n.) macht jetzt seine (n.) Hausaufgaben.* Das Mädchen (n.) ist aus der Schule gekommen. Sie (f.) macht jetzt ihre (f.) Hausaufgaben. Though the second sentence may appear grammatically incorrect (constructio ad sensum), it is common in speech. With one or more intervening sentences, the second form becomes even more likely. However, a switch to the natural gender is never possible with articles and attributive pronouns or adjectives. Thus it can never be correct to say "eine Mädchen (a girl)" – with female indefinite article) or "diese kleine Mädchen (this little girl)" – with female demonstrative pronoun and adjective). This phenomenon is quite popular in Slavic languages: for example Polish *kreatura* (deprecativ "creature") is feminine but can be used to refer to both man (masculine gender), woman (feminine gender), child (neuter gender) or even animate nouns (e.g. a dog being masculine). Similarly with other deprecatory nouns as *pierdola*, *ciapa*, *lamaga*, *lajza*, *niezdarca* ("wuss, klutz"); *niemowa* ("mute") can be used deprecatively as described previously, and then can be used for verbs marked for the male and female genders. In the case of languages which have masculine and feminine genders, the relation between biological sex and grammatical gender tends to be less exact in the case of animals than in the case of people. In Spanish, for instance, a *cheetah* is always un *guapardo* (masculine) and a *zebra* is a *cebra* (neuter). In Bulgarian, *чепачко* or German *rotz*, *rotze* but only one in plural (Bulgarian *чепачки*, German *rotz*) [all examples *messa* "red"]. As a consequence pluralia tantum nouns (lacking a singular form) cannot be assigned a gender. Example with Bulgarian: *кмет* (kleshit, "pinchers"), *рамни* (gashit, "pants"), *оузана* (ochlis, "spectacles"), *хризте* (hrilte, "gills"). [note 3] Other languages, e.g. Serbo-Croatian, avoid doubly marked forms both for number and gender. In these languages, each noun has a definite gender no matter the number. For example, *djeca* "children" is feminine singularia tantum and *vrata* "door" is neuter pluralra tantum. Pronouns may agree in gender with the noun or noun phrase to which they refer (their antecedent). Sometimes, however, there is no antecedent—the referent of the pronoun is deduced indirectly from the context: this is found with personal pronouns, as well as with indefinite and dummy pronouns. With personal pronouns, the gender of the pronoun is likely to agree with the natural gender of the referent. Indeed, in most European languages, personal pronouns are gendered; for example English (the personal pronouns he, she and it are used depending on whether the referent is male, female, or inanimate or no-human; this is in spite of the fact that English does not generally have grammatical gender). A parallel example is provided by the object suffixes of verbs in Arabic, which correspond to object pronouns, and which also reflect for gender in the second person (though not in the first): "I love you", said to a male: *uhibbuk* (حُبِبْتُ) "I love you", said to a female: *uhibbuki* (حُبِبْتِ) All languages have gendered pronouns. In languages that never had grammatical gender, there is normally just one word for "he" and "she", like *dia* in Malay and Indonesian, *o* in Hungarian and *o* in Turkish. These languages may only have different genders and inflections in the referent between people and inanimate objects, but even this distinction is often absent. In written Finnish, for example, *hänen* is used for "her" and "she" and so for "it", but in the colloquial language so is usually used for "he" and "she" as well. (For more on these different types of pronoun, see Third-person pronoun.) Issues may arise in languages with gender-specific pronouns in cases when the gender of the referent is unknown or not specified; this is a matter that arises frequently in relation to gender-neutral language, as with English usage of Singular they. In some cases, the gender of a pronoun is not marked in the form of the pronoun itself, but is marked on other words by way of agreement. Thus the French word for "I" is *je*, regardless of who is speaking; but this word becomes feminine or masculine depending on the sex of the speaker, as may be reflected through adjective agreement: *je suis fort* ("I am strong", spoken/written by a female); *je suis fort* (the same but by a male). In null-subject languages (and in some elliptical expressions in other languages), such agreement may take place even though the pronoun does not in fact appear. For example, in Portuguese: [I am] very grateful, said/written by a male: *multo obrigada*, when by a female: *multo obrigada* The two sentences above mean literally "much obliged"; the adjective agrees with the natural gender of the speaker, that is, with the gender of the first person pronoun which does not appear explicitly here. A dummy pronoun is a type of pronoun used when a particular verb argument (such as the subject) is nonexistent, but when a reference to the argument is nevertheless syntactically required. 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