

Look at the following sentences.



The **boy** is playing cricket.



That **girl** is painting a picture.



This **bat** is mine.



The **baby** is crying.

The noun '**boy**' is the name of a male. It is a **masculine gender**. The word masculine means male. Thus, names of all male persons or animals are in the masculine gender; for example,

king, man, actor, son, horse

The noun '**girl**' is the name of a female. It is a **feminine gender**. The word feminine means female. Thus, the names of all female persons or animals are in the feminine gender; for example,

queen, woman, actress, daughter, cow

The noun '**bat**' is the name of a thing. A thing without life can neither be male nor female. The name of such a thing is a **neuter gender**. The word 'neuter' means neither. So a thing which is neither male nor female belongs to the neuter gender; for example,

chair, table, house, pen, book, school

The noun '**baby**' may be used for a male baby or a female baby. The name is common for a male or a female. Thus, the names which are common to both males and females are in the **common gender**; for example,

friend, parent, pupil, person, child, cousin, student, teacher, baby, bird

## How Feminines of Nouns are Formed

There are three ways of forming a feminine gender of a noun from a masculine noun.

1. By adding **-ess** to the masculine:

Masculine	Feminine
host	hostess
lion	lioness
prince	princess

Masculine	Feminine
priest	priestess
shepherd	shepherdess

2. Sometimes, the form is slightly changed before **-ess** is added:

tiger	tigress
emperor	empress
duke	duchess

waiter	waitress
god	goddess

3. By using an entirely different word:

boy	girl
brother	sister
dog	bitch
gentleman	lady
husband	wife
man	woman
papa	mamma
son	daughter
bridegroom	bride

bull (ox)	cow
cock	hen
father	mother
horse	mare
king	queen
nephew	niece
sir	madam
uncle	aunt
hero	heroine

## EXERCISES



Write the feminine forms of the following words.

Boy ..... *girl* .....  
 Horse ..... *mare* .....  
 Bull ..... *cow* .....  
 Uncle ..... *aunt* .....  
 Hero ..... *heroine* .....

Prince ..... *princess* .....  
 Lion ..... *lioness* .....  
 Poet ..... *poetess* .....  
 Tiger ..... *tigress* .....  
 God ..... *goddess* .....



Write the masculine forms of the following words.

Priestess ..... Priest

Empress ..... Emperor

Queen ..... King

Bitch ..... dog

Lady ..... Gentleman

Heroine ..... hero

Cow ..... bull / ox

Hostess ..... host

Hen ..... cock

Bride ..... groom



**Remember**

There are four genders – masculine, feminine, common and neuter.



Rewrite the paragraph given below by changing the words in green to the opposite gender.

My <sup>aunt</sup> uncle threw a big party. <sup>she</sup> He invited all <sup>her</sup> his friends. His <sup>Her husband</sup> wife made all the arrangements. <sup>He</sup> She organized some games for the guests. A <sup>woman</sup> man in blue dress won many prizes. My <sup>uncle's daughter</sup> aunt's son also took active part in all the games. There were two waiters <sup>waitress</sup> who were serving the snacks and drinks throughout the evening.

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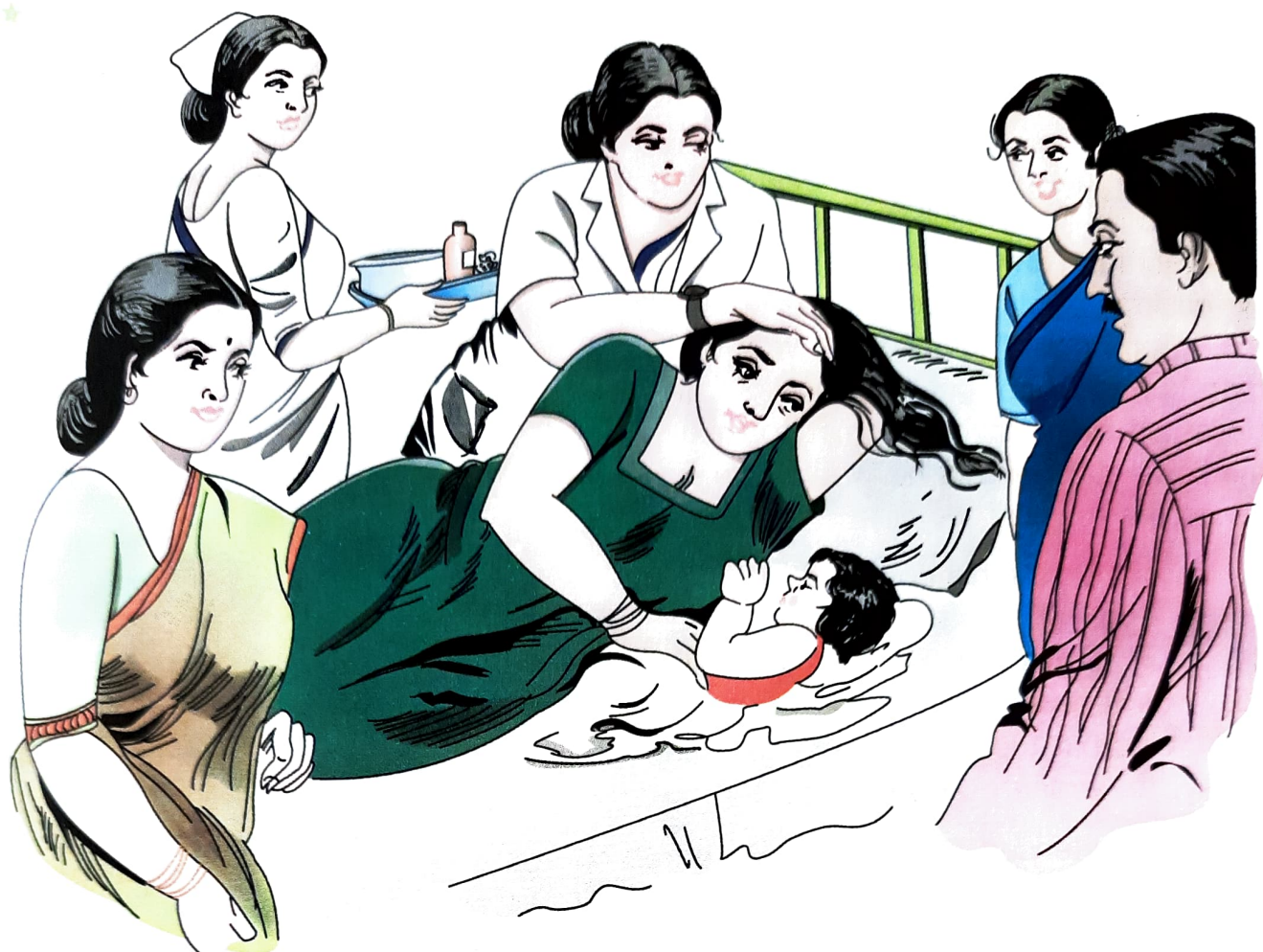
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Look at the picture.



Write the nouns for the people in the picture and write their gender.

Doctor — common

Woman — feminine

man — masculine

baby — common

bed — neuter