

## HW Oct 23, Some rules for neuter nouns (starting with “das”)

1. What is a diminutive noun?

A diminutive is a noun that describes a small version of another noun.

2. Take a German noun and make your own diminutive from it.

der Elefant – das Elefäntchen

3. Below are 7 rules that can help you identify German neuter nouns. Go to an online dictionary (see Deutsche Schule Website/Resources for some dictionaries) and translate the nouns below into English. Then, determine the number of the rule that tells you that the (German) noun is neuter, that is, why it gets the article “das” in front of it.

Neuter nouns, which require “das” are:

(1) **all** diminutive nouns, that is, nouns that end in **-chen** or **-lein**

(2) **all** nouns formed from an **infinitive**

(3) **most** nouns ending in **-nis**, but not all(!)

(4) **all** metals

(5) **most** nouns ending in **-ment**

(6) **almost all** nouns ending in **-tel** (for example, all fractions)

(7) **all** nouns ending in **-tum**, **-um**

das Aluminium ( 4 ) - aluminum

das Spielen ( 2 ) – the act of playing

das Dokument ( 5 ) – document

das Platin ( 4 ) – platinum

das Häuschen ( 1 ) – small house

das Element ( 5 ) – element

das Büchlein ( 1 ) – small book

das Monument ( 5 ) – monument

das Kindchen ( 1 ) – small child

das Bäumchen ( 1 ) – little tree, sapling

das Kindlein ( 1 ) – small child, infant

das Aquarium ( 7 ) – aquarium

das Terrarium ( 7 ) – terrarium

das Observatorium ( 7 ) – observatory

das Kupfer ( 4 ) – copper

das Fahren ( 2 ) – the act of driving

das Viertel ( 6 ) – quarter

das Management ( 5 ) – management

das Fünftel ( 6 ) – one fifth

das Heiligtum ( 7 ) – sanctuary,

das Sechstel ( 6 ) – one sixth

das Blei ( 4 ) - lead

das Siebtel ( 6 ) – one seventh

BUT: der Mörtel (n/a) – mortar, cement

das Achtel ( 6 ) – the eighth

das Apartment ( 5 ) - apartment