

German Nouns Gender (der, die, das) Cheat Sheet

männliche Substantive (male nouns, starting with "der"):

- male persons (all nouns that refer to ...)
- ending in **-er, -en, -el** (*many* nouns, **but not all**, but always for guys who do something: fahren (drive), der Fahrer (driver))
- all days of the week, months, seasons
- ending in **-ich, -ig, -ismus, -ist, -ling, -us** (all nouns)

weibliche Substantive (female nouns, starting with "die"):

- female persons (all nouns that refer to ...)
- numbers (all of them)
- ending in **-e** (*many*, **but not all**)
- ending in **-a** (*many* [often with latin roots], **but not all**)
- ending in **-in** (all nouns, for women/girls who do something, e.g. der Fahrer – die Fahrerin)
- all nouns ending in **-ei, -heit, -keit, -ie, -ik, -nz, -schaft, -ion, -tät, -ung, -ur**

sächliche Substantive (neuter nouns, starting with "das"):

- diminutives ending in **-chen** or **-lein** (all diminutive nouns)
- infinitive of a verb (all nouns formed from an **infinitive of a verb**, e.g., das Singen)
- ending in **-nis** (*many*, **but not all**)
- metals (all metals, e.g., gold, silver, aluminum, iron, etc.)
- ending in **-ment** (*most*, **but not all**)
- ending in **-tel** (*most*, e.g., all fractions: das Viertel, das Achtel, **but not all**)
- ending in **-tum, -um** (all of them)

HW Due Oct 30, der-die-das exercise

Last time in class, we played a little game who can name that article the fastest, *and tell me the rule* why it is, for example, “die Nase” and not “der Nase”. I have copied the cheat sheet again and removed the numbers, so you get used to memorizing each rule itself as opposed to the number. To learn the rules, we practice some more.

Below, write the proper German article in front of the German word, write the rule that applies behind the word, and translate the German word into English. None of the words are new – they are all taken from the lists of the last three weeks, so you can go back to your notes, or remember the translation, or guess the English cognate, or you can go to the online dictionaries.

Example:

Sohn

der Sohn – referring to males - the son

Winter

Dackel

Oma

Deckel

Aluminium

August

Balken

Dunkelheit

Montag

Heiterkeit

Kanne

Traurigkeit

Supernova

Kindchen

Kellnerin

Kindlein

Häuschen

Spielen

Büchlein

Diva