

HW Oct 16, Cognates, some rules for female nouns (starting with “die”)

1. What are cognates?

Cognates are words with a common origin. German-English cognates sound and look similar because they have the same Anglo-Saxon roots.

2. Explain why there are German-English cognates and why we care about them.

About 1500 years ago, when the Anglo-Saxons migrated from today’s northern Germany and southern Denmark into what is Great Britain today, they brought their old German language with them. The language of the Anglo-Saxons who stayed behind became German. The language of the migrants became English. We can use the similarities of cognates to get a head start into the German vocabulary.

3. Below are 6 rules that can help you identify German female 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 makes the (German) noun female, that is, why it gets the article “die” in front of it.

Female nouns that require “die” are:

- (1) **all** nouns that refer to females
- (2) **all** numbers
- (3) **many** nouns ending in **–e**, but not all
- (4) **many** nouns ending in **–a** (often with latin roots), but not all
- (5) **all** nouns ending in **–in** for female professions or occupations
- (6) **all** nouns ending in **–ei, –heit, –keit, –ie, –ik, –nz, –schaft, –ion, –tät, –ung, –ur**

Example: die Mutter – the mother (1)

die Oma (1) – the granny

die Tante (1) – the aunt

die Hunderttausend (2)- hundred thousand

die Milliarde (2) - the billion

die Kanne (3) – the can, the pot	die Ballerina – the ballerina (4)
die Supernova (4) – the supernova	die Kante – the edge (3)
die Kellnerin (5) – the waitress	die Schweinerei (6) -
die Dunkelheit (6) – the darkness	die Präsidentin (6) -
die Heiterkeit (6) – the happiness, the cheeriness	die Helligkeit – the brightness (6)
die Traurigkeit (6) – the sadness	die Fotografie (6) – the photograph, the photography
die Diva (5) – the diva	die Kritik (6) – the criticism
die Frequenz (6) – the frequency	die Konferenz (6) – the conference
die Landschaft (6)– the landscape	die Wissenschaft (6) – the science
die Nation (6) – the nation	die Position (6) – the position
die Universität (6) – the university	die Gravitation (6) – the gravity, the gravitation
die Verabredung (6)- the agreement the date, the appointment	die Kreuzung (6) – the crossing
die Natur (6) – the nature	die Note (3) – the note
die Prozedur (6) – the procedure	BUT(m!): der Bote (n/a) – the messenger, the carrier
die Meisterschaft (6) – the mastery, the championship	die Tochter (1) – the daughter

4. Turn the following guys who do something into gals who do something (Hint: look at rule #5). Translate the guys and gals into English.

Example:

der Maler – the male painter, the painter (m)

die Malerin – the female painter, the painter (f)

der Fahrer – the driver (m)

die Fahrerin – the driver (f)

der Meister – the master, the champion (m)

die Meisterin – the master, the champion (f)

der Tourist – the tourist (m)

die Touristin – the tourist (f)

der Kanzler – the chancellor (m)

die Kanzlerin – the chancellor (f)

der Polizist – the police man

die Polizistin – the police woman

der Käufer – the buyer (m)

die Käuferin – the buyer (f)

der Bäcker – the baker (m)

die Bäckerin – the baker (f)

der Läufer – the runner (m), the bishop (chess)

die Läuferin – the runner (f)