Chapter Two: When to Use Female Nouns

 1. What Is Gender in Grammar?

In English, nouns are usually gender-neutral, but sometimes we use masculine, feminine, or neutral forms:

Masculine: for male people or animals

Example: king, father, lion

Feminine: for female people or animals

Example: queen, mother, lioness

Neutral (Neuter): for things or when gender doesn't matter

Example: table, book, child

 2. How Are Female Nouns Formed?

We form some female nouns by adding a suffix to the male noun. Common suffixes:

–ess:

actor → actress

waiter → waitress

host → hostess

–ine / –ette (less common):

hero → heroine

majorette (female major)

But modern English prefers gender-neutral forms, like:

actor for both men and women

waiter and server instead of waitress

 3. Common-Gender Nouns

Some nouns can refer to either gender, depending on context:

teacher

doctor

student

parent

These are called common-gender nouns. You can use them for males or females, and the pronoun (he/she/they) depends on the person.

4. When Do We Use Feminine Nouns?

Use a feminine noun when:

You want to specify that the person or animal is female

Example: lion → lioness, actor → actress (optional)

The gender is important in the sentence (like in stories or biographies)

Example: The queen ruled for 50 years.

But in modern English, it's okay (and often preferred) to use neutral terms to avoid sexism.

--- 5. Pronouns and Gender

Use she/her for women or female animals.

Example: The girl loves her dog. She is very kind.

Use they/them for gender-neutral or unknown gender.

Example: The student forgot their book.

Use it/its for objects or animals when gender isn't known.

Summary Table

ender Type Noun Example Pronoun Example

Gender Type	Noun Example	Pronoun Example
Masculine	father, king	he, his
Feminine	mother, queen	she, her
Gender-Neutral	teacher, student	they, their
Neuter	book, car	it, its