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Nouns: Gender

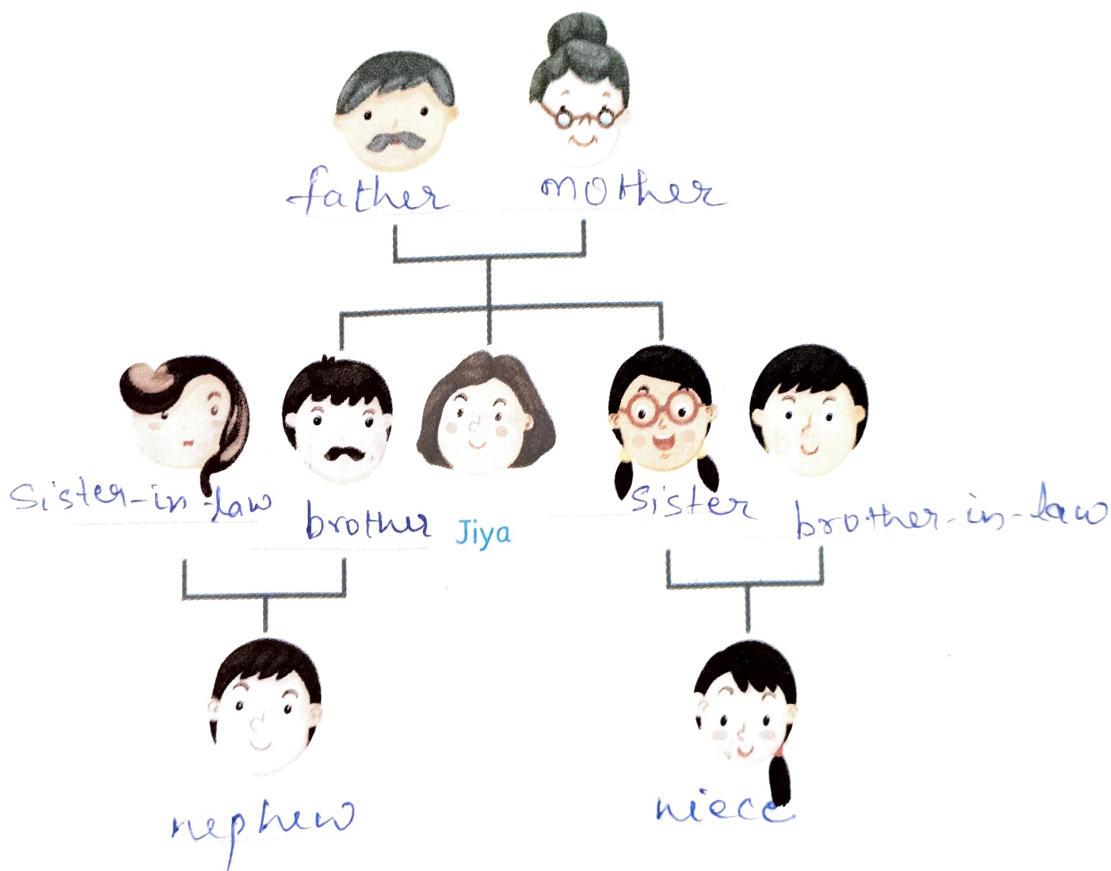


THINK



Critical Thinking

Imagine you are Jiya. Complete the family tree given below.



LEARN

Gender

Read the sentence given below. Notice the words in colour.

- The **king** went to meet the **queen** in the **palace**. The **couple** took a walk in the **garden**.
- All words in colour are nouns. Did you know all nouns refer to a gender? Look at the mind map below to learn about them.

masculine gender because it refers to male

cousin/guest

common gender because it refers to both or either gender

garden/table
neuter gender because it refers to neither male or female

queen/woman
feminine gender because it refers to a female noun

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C



PRACTISE

A. Complete the table given below.

masculine	feminine
emperor	empress
son	daughter
husband	wife
bridegroom	bride
gentleman	lady
peacock	peahen

masculine	feminine
deer	doe
nephew	niece
headmaster	headmistress
brother-in-law	sister-in-law
landlord	landlady
bull	cow

Place the nouns from the box in the correct columns.

laptop landlord parent rooster lioness tap
cow stag child bottle goose
writer peacock tumbler hen trainer

masculine	feminine	common	neuter
landlord	lioness	parent	laptop
rooster	cow	child	tap
stag	hen	writer	bottle
peacock	goose	trainer	tumbler

LEARN

Formation of Nouns of Feminine Gender

Some masculine nouns can be changed into feminine nouns by adding **-ess**.

- lion – lioness
- duke – duchess
- host – hostess
- emperor – empress

REMEMBER

In earlier times the following feminine gender forms were commonly used.

- actor – actress
- steward – stewardess (attendant)
- poet – poetess
- waiter – waitress (server)

In present times, either the masculine gender form is used for both or a more neutral word is used.

PRACTISE

C. Rewrite the sentences by changing the masculine nouns to feminine nouns.



1. The oxen went to the pond to drink water.

The cow went to the pond to drink water.

2. My brother is going to Chennai for a holiday.

My sister is going to Chennai for a holiday.

3. The prince took the horse to the stable.

The princess took the mare to the stable.

4. My grandfather is going to visit my uncle.

My grandmother is going to visit my aunt.

5. The king had no heir to the throne.

The queen had no heiress to the throne.

D. Fill in the blanks with nouns of the correct gender. Use the hints given in the brackets.

1. My cousin (common gender) saw the tigress (female tiger) going into the forest in search of prey. They saw her chasing a deer (male deer) while a Vixen (female fox) looked on.
2. Vidhi's mother (feminine of father) asked her niece (feminine of nephew) to come later and meet her at the gate. She said she would take her to the beach. Vidhi's uncle (masculine of aunt) would take Vidhi to the beach as well.



L A Y

H.W.

Indian languages have specific names for certain family relations, unlike in English. Find out as many such names as you can in your mother tongue and try to express them in English alongside. Remember to list masculine and feminine equivalents wherever applicable.

name in your mother tongue

description in English

