

Masculine/feminine/plurals

Class Objective: I will be able to understand Masculine/feminine/plurals.

Concept A: Gender

There are three genders in Dutch:

- masculine
- feminine
- neuter

De is used with masculine and feminine nouns. **Het** is used with neuter nouns.

Each noun has a gender and some nouns have two genders.

Both, de and het, can be used with the nouns that are masculine and neuter.

Concept B: Masculine and Feninine nouns

- Nouns can be recognized as masculine or feminine if they end in -ing, -ie, -ij, -heid, -teit, -a, -nis, -st, -schap, -de, -te, -e and more; so they go together with the definite article de (e.g. de vreemdeling).
- Nouns ending in -isme, -ment, -sel and -um are considered neuter and go with the definite article het (e.g. het monument).
- Nouns of two syllables beginning with be-, ge-, ver- and ont-, as well as diminutive nouns always go with het.
- Plural nouns always go with de, whether the noun is masculine or feminine (e.g. de vreemdelingen; de monumenten). There only exists one indefinite article: een.

Masculine	Feminine
De Deen (the Danish man)	De Deense (the Danish woman)
De zanger (the singer)	De zangeres (the female singer)
De leeuw (the lion)	De leeuwin (the lioness)
De speler (the player)	De speelster (the female player)

Concept C: Singular and Plural nouns

All plural nouns take the article 'de' regardless of whether their singular forms are de or het words.

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