

Gender

(Wilson ch. 1)

Clues to gender: (with Latin loanwords, use your knowledge of Latin!)

Masculine

- male beings *der König* king
- verb-based agent nouns in *-er* *der Händler* merchant

Feminine

- female beings *die Mutter* mother
- occupations ending in *-in* *die Lehrerin* teacher
- most nouns ending in *-e* *die Erde* earth
- all words ending in *-ei* *die Abtei* abbey
- ie* *die Allegorie* allegory
- heit* *die Vergangenheit* past
- keit* *die Frömmigkeit* devotion
- ik* *die Apologetik* apologetics
- schaft* *die Wirtschaft* economy
- tät* *die Universität* university
- tion* *die Absolution* absolution
- ung* *die Bestätigung* confirmation

NB that all these endings are characteristic of abstract nouns, which tend to be feminine.

Neuter

- diminutives, i.e. nouns ending in:
 - chen* *das Mädchen* girl
 - lein* *das Fräulein* miss
- verb-based nouns denoting an activity: *das Versuchen, das Leben* attempting, living
- nouns ending in:
 - ium* *das Studium* studies
 - tum* *das Christentum* Christendom
 - ment* *das Abonnement* subscription
 - sel* *das Rätsel* riddle, mystery

Exercise

Without consulting a dictionary, deduce the gender of the following nouns:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Tasse | Gesellschaft | Zusteller | Altertum | Brötchen | Wahrsagerei |
| Musiker | Interesse | Kaninchen | Quizmaster | Phantasie | Periodizität |
| Leben | Arrangement | Hypothese | Bäuerlein | Studentin | Anhängsel |
| Achtung | Parkwächter | Kessler | Stenografie | Parker | Epik |
| Empfindlichkeit | Stadium | Inspektorin | Gesinnung | Theorie | Periodikum |
| Leibchen | Spielerei | Grubenarbeiter | Jäger | Politik | Wahrheit |
| Zimmermann | Wahrnehmung | Hausfrau | Vorlage | Philologie | Frische |