

der Genus

lat.genus = gender

der, die, das?

there is **NO** universal Logic/rule to determine the noun genders in German

But two aspects to better guess:



I. Ending of the word **can** (not 100%) hint the gender:

Ending	Example	Comment
-ant	der Musikant <i>the musician</i>	• Often professions
-ast	der Gast <i>the guest</i>	
-el	der Hebel <i>the lever</i>	• 60% of these nouns is male
-er	der Jäger <i>the hunter</i>	• Professions, social roles and titles • 60% of these nouns is male
-ent	der Zement <i>the cement</i>	• 80% of these nouns is male
-ich	der Teppich <i>the carpet</i>	
-ig	der Essig <i>the vinegar</i>	
-ling	der Schwächling <i>the weakling</i>	
-mus	der Materialismus <i>the materialism</i>	
-or	der Moderator <i>the moderator</i>	
-us	der Sozialismus <i>the socialism</i>	

Eding	Example	Comment
-a	die Kamera <i>the camera</i>	• Mostly latin/greek origin • Very rarely
-anz	die Arroganz <i>the arrogance</i>	
-ei	die Metzgerei <i>the butchery</i>	
-enz	die Konferenz <i>the conference</i>	• Mostly latin/greek origin • Very rarely
-heit	die Gesundheit <i>the health</i>	
-e	die Sonne <i>the sun</i>	• 90% are female. But: der Junge
-ik	die Pädagogik <i>the pedagogy</i>	
-in	die Prinzessin <i>the princess</i>	• <i>female profession forms</i> der Doktor/in die Doktorin
-ion	die Nation <i>the nation</i>	
-keit	die Höflichkeit <i>the politness</i>	
-schaft	die Wissenschaft <i>the science</i>	
-tät	die Realität <i>the reality</i>	
-ung	die Umgebung <i>the surrounding</i>	
-ur	die Kultur <i>the culture</i>	

Ending	Example	Comment
-chen	das Mädchen <i>the girl</i>	• All diminutives are neutral
Ge-...	das Gericht <i>the court</i>	• 90% neutral with Prefix <i>but: die Geschichte</i> <i>the story/history</i>
-lein	das Hündlein <i>the „little“ dog</i>	• All diminutives are neutral
-ma	das Thema <i>the topic</i>	• Mostly latin/greek origin Very rarely
-ment	das Instrument <i>the instrument</i>	
-nis	das Hindernis <i>the obstacle</i>	• 66% are neutral.
-sal	das Schicksal <i>the fate</i>	• 66% are neutral.
-el	das Hotel <i>the hotel</i>	
-um	das Imperium <i>the empire</i>	• Mostly latin/greek origin • Very rarely

II. Specific topics

Male beings	der Mann/Hund/Gott <i>the man / dog / god</i>
Days of the week, months, seasons	der Montag/Januar/der Winter <i>the monday/januar/winter</i>
Weather phenomena	der Regen/Sturm/Hagel <i>the rain/storm/hail</i>
Car brands	der Porsche/Mercedes
Foreign (for Germans) rivers and waters	der Fluss/Nil/Ozean <i>the river/Nile/ocean</i> but: das Meer <i>the ocean</i>
Any currencies	der US-Dollar/Euro <i>but: die Mark</i>
Nouns formed by verbs en	der Schlaf, der Sitz

Female beings	die Frau/Hündin/Göttin <i>woman/female dog/ female god</i>
names for big vehicles (planes, ships,...)	die Titanic, die Spitfire

Young beings	das Mädchen/Fohlen <i>the girl/the foal</i>
Metals	das Gold/Silber <i>the gold/silver</i> but: die Bronze <i>the bronce</i>
Public Buildings	das Cafe/Kino/Hotel/Rathaus <i>the cafe/cinema/hotel/citizen hall</i> but: die Bibliothek <i>the library</i>

Attention: loanwords from English adopt the gender of their native German equivalent.

das Telefon - das Smartphone
der LKW - der Truck
(Lastkraftwagen)