

Diminutiv

lat. *de*minuere „decrease“ = belittling, affection, devaluation
minus

Regular

*Change to
Diminutiv*

Diminutiv

der Hund/-e
das Haus/-er

1.

change article
to neutral "das"

das Hund
das Haus

2.

add Umlaut
for a,u,o

das H^ünd
das H^äus

3.

ending
Diminutiv:

das H^ünd**chen**
das H^ünd**lein**
das H^äus**chen**
das H^äus**lein**

4.

plural Diminutiv
never changes

die H^ünd**chen**
die H^äus**chen**

*Do NOT create your own Diminutives,
but copy them from mother tongues*

-chen

-lein

(strongly in south Germany)

Exception:

-ling

(rarely - only for specific words)



Attention: all male (**der**)

der Jüngling/Däumling/Zögling
the Youth thumbling pupil

-erl (Bavarian)

das Hunderl/Tischerl

-li (Swiss)

das Hündi/Tischi

-i/y (names)

Hansi/Thommy (statt Thomas)

Diminutive only:

- Märchen (fairy tale, "little story")

- Mädchen (girl, "little maid")

- Fräulein (young lady)

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