Der, die, das

Noun gender and the endings that predict it

Name _____ Date _____ Score / 10

THE RULE

Every German noun has a grammatical gender: masculine (**der**), feminine (**die**) or neuter (**das**). The gender is part of the word, so learn each noun together with its article. In the plural, the article is always **die**.

You cannot guess every gender, but many endings are reliable. Start with these:

Article	Typical endings and groups	Examples
der	-ling, -ismus, -or (mostly), days, months, seasons, male persons	`der Frühling, der Montag, der Motor`
die	-ung, -heit, -keit, -schaft, -ion, -tät, -ie, -ik	`die Zeitung, die Freiheit, die Nation`
das	-chen, -lein, -ment, -um, -nis (mostly), verbs used as nouns	`das Mädchen, das Museum, das Essen`

Compound nouns

The last word decides: `die Tür + der Schlüssel = der Türschlüssel.`

EXERCISES

1. _____ Zeitung (a) der (b) die (c) das
2. _____ Mädchen (a) der (b) die (c) das
3. _____ Montag (a) der (b) die (c) das
4. _____ Freiheit (a) der (b) die (c) das
5. _____ Museum (a) der (b) die (c) das
6. _____ Frühling (a) der (b) die (c) das
7. _____ Information (a) der (b) die (c) das
8. _____ Schwimmen (a) der (b) die (c) das
9. _____ Universität (a) der (b) die (c) das
10. _____ Haustür (Haus + Tür) (a) der (b) die (c) das

Der, die, das: answers and explanations

1. **die** -ung nouns are always feminine.
2. **das** -chen makes any noun neuter, even a girl.
3. **der** Days of the week are masculine.
4. **die** -heit is always feminine.
5. **das** -um is usually neuter.
6. **der** Seasons and -ling nouns are masculine.
7. **die** -ion is feminine.
8. **das** An infinitive used as a noun is neuter.
9. **die** -tät is feminine.
10. **die** In compounds the last part decides: die Tür.

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