

## Wortschatz

das Wort (the word) + der Schatz (the treasure) = word treasure: 'vocabulary'

## LEUTE (People)

Most words referring to people take masculine or feminine gender based on the person's biological gender. Very few 'people' nouns take neuter gender. (See below.)

| Masculine Singular | Plural     | English  | Feminine Singular | Plural          | English      |
|--------------------|------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mann               | Männer     | husband, man   | Frau              | Frauen          | wife, woman  |
| Vater              | Väter      | father   | Mutter            | Mütter          | mother       |
| Bruder             | Brüder     | brother  | Schwester         | Schwestern      | sister       |
| Sohn               | Söhne      | son  | Tochter           | Töchter         | daughter     |
| Amerikaner         | Amerikaner | American   | Amerikanerin      | Amerikanerinnen |              |
| Kanadier           | Kanadier   | Canadian   | Kanadierin        | Kanadierinnen   |              |
| Student            | Student    | student (university)   | Studentin         | Studentinnen    | (See below.) |
| Schüler            | Schüler    | pupil, student (school)  | Schülerin         | Schülerinnen    |              |
| Sekretär           | Sekretär   | secretary  | Sekretärin        | Sekretärinnen   |              |
| Jung               | Jungen     | boy  |                   |                 |              |
| Deutsch__          |            | a German person; This noun takes a variety of complex grammatical endings to be discussed later. |                   |                 |              |

### - er & - in

People nouns are often based on words (such as verbs) by adding '-er' to the end of the stem of the word. This results in nouns meaning 'the one who performs or is engaged in that activity'.

Nouns based on the '-er' pattern are very consistent in the following grammar points:

- The plural form is identical to the masculine singular form.  
(der Amerikaner, die Amerikaner = the American man, the American people)
- The feminine counterpart is created by adding '-in' (after '-er') to the end of the word.  
(die Amerikanerin = the American woman; die Tänzerin = the female dancer)
- The plural feminine is formed by adding '-nen' to the end of the noun.  
(die Amerikanerinnen = the American women; die Tänzerinnen = the female dancers)
- There is no distinct form indicating male-only plural.  
(die Amerikaner = the Americans; This can mean either all people or male-only.)

|                             |  |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Masculine Singular & Plural | no difference between singular & plural              | Spieler<br>Arbeiter<br>Sprecher<br>Politiker                        | player / players (from 'spielen' = to play)<br>worker / workers (from 'arbeiten' = to work)<br>speaker / speakers (from 'sprechen' = to speak)<br>politician / —s (from 'Politik' = politics) |   |
| Feminine Singular           | Spielerin<br>Arbeiterin<br>Sprecherin<br>Politikerin | female player<br>woman worker<br>woman speaker<br>female politician | Feminine Plural<br>Spielerinnen<br>Arbeiterinnen<br>Sprecherinnen<br>Politikerinnen   | female players<br>women workers<br>woman speakers<br>female politicians |

### neuter nouns

A handful of nouns referring to people take neuter gender.

|                 |                          |                              |               |                             |                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Neuter Singular | Kind<br>Mädchen<br>Genie | child, kid<br>girl<br>genius | Neuter Plural | Kinder<br>Mädchen<br>Genies | children, kids<br>girls<br>geniuses |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

### Leute (people)

The German word for 'people' (**Leute**) only exists in the plural.

The words for 'person' (Mensch, Person) can be used when expressing the singular.