

- letters of the alphabet and musical scales
das A (*the letter A*), das C-Dur (*C major*)
- fractions
das Drittel (*third*), das Viertel (*quarter*)
Exception: die Hälfte (*half*)
- adjectives used as abstract nouns, and all infinitives and other parts of speech used as nouns
das Skifahren (*skiing*), das Gute und Böse (*good and evil*),
das beste Deutsch (*the best German*), das Du und das Sie
(*the informal and formal you*), das Auf und Ab (*the ups and downs*)

■ 6.3.2 Neuter by form

- all nouns with the diminutive endings **-chen**, **-lein** and **-el**
das Mädchen (*girl*), das Brüderchen (*little brother*),
das Zünglein (*little tongue*), das Mädel/Madel (*girl*)
- most nouns with the following endings:
-icht, -ma, -ment das Gesicht (*face*), das Thema (*topic*),
das Argument (*argument*)
-tum, -um das Datum (*date*), das Stadium
(*stage*)

Common exceptions: die Firma (*company*), der Reichtum
(*wealth*), der Irrtum (*error*), der Konsum (*consumption*)

- the majority of nouns (by no means all!) with the prefix **Ge-**:
das Gebäude (*building*), das Getreide (*grain*),
das Gespräch (*conversation*)
Common exceptions: die Geschichte (*history, story*),
die Gewalt (*force*)

6.4 Compound nouns

Compound nouns are made up of two or more words.
Their gender is determined by the gender of the last
component word:

- die Bahn + der Übergang → **der** Bahnübergang
(*railway crossing*)
- die Bücher + das Regal → **das** Bücherregal (*bookshelf*)

6.5 Nouns with more than one gender

■ 6.5.1 Some common nouns vary in gender according to
meaning:

der Band (<i>volume, book</i>)	das Band (<i>ribbon, tape, bond</i>)
	die Band (<i>pop group</i>)
der Erbe (<i>heir</i>)	das Erbe (<i>inheritance</i>)
der Gehalt (<i>content</i>)	das Gehalt (<i>salary</i>)
der Leiter (<i>leader</i>)	die Leiter (<i>ladder</i>)
der See (<i>lake</i>)	die See (<i>sea</i>)
die Steuer (<i>tax</i>)	das Steuer (<i>steering wheel</i>)
der Teil (<i>part of a whole</i>)	das Teil (<i>part of a machine</i>)
der Verdienst (<i>earnings</i>)	das Verdienst (<i>merit</i>)

■ 6.5.2 Some common nouns vary in gender without a
change in meaning (due to regional variation or personal
preference):

der/das Bonbon (<i>sweet</i>)	der/das Cola
der/das Gelee (<i>jelly</i>)	der/das Keks (<i>biscuit</i>)
der/das Jogurt (<i>yogurt</i>)	der/das Ketschup
der/das Liter (<i>litre</i>)	der/das Meter (<i>metre</i>)