

NOUNS

Bulgarian nouns can be **masculine**, **feminine** or **neuter**.

Based on their gender, they are subject to specific rules which define their plural forms, definite article and adjective forms, so **identifying a noun's gender is very important**.

Gender	Rule	Example
Masculine	• end in a consonant	• бар (<i>bar</i>) • хотел (<i>hotel</i>) • мъж (<i>man</i>)
Feminine	• end in -a or -я	• жена (<i>woman</i>) • стая (<i>room</i>) • вода (<i>water</i>)
Neuter	• end in -e or -o	• море (<i>sea</i>) • нещо (<i>thing</i>) • дете (<i>child</i>)

Based on the rules above, identify the gender of the following nouns:

студент (*a university student*) _____

лекар (*a doctor*) _____

пица (*pizza*) _____

авокадо (*avocado*) _____

маса (*table*) _____

град (*city*) _____

село (*village*) _____

магазин (*shop*) _____

яке (*jacket*) _____



There are several **exceptions** to these rules.
Check some of the most common examples below.

Gender	Rule	Exception	Example
Masculine	end in a consonant	male characters	- баща (<i>father</i>) - дядо (<i>grandfather</i>)
Feminine	end in -а or -я	end in -ст or -есен	- радост (<i>joy</i>) - песен (<i>song</i>)
Feminine	end in -а or -я	end in -щ	- нощ (<i>night</i>) - свещ (<i>candle</i>)
Feminine	end in -а or -я	other nouns that end in consonants but are feminine	- любов (<i>love</i>) - вечер (<i>evening</i>) - сутрин (<i>morning</i>)
Neuter	end in -е or -о	end in -и, -у or -ю (loan words)	- такси (<i>taxi</i>) - бижу (<i>jewel</i>) - меню (<i>menu</i>)

Now, identify the gender of the following nouns based on the exceptions above:

хоби (*hobby*) _____

барбекю (*barbecue*) _____

част (*part*) _____

парти (*party*) _____

есен (*autumn*) _____

чичо (*uncle*) _____

PLURAL NOUNS

(MASCULINE)

Rule	Example (singular)	Example (plural)
if it has a single syllable, add -ове	- бар (<i>bar</i>) - стол (<i>chair</i>) - град (<i>city</i>)	- барове (<i>bars</i>) - столове (<i>chairs</i>) - градове (<i>cities</i>)
if it ends in -к, replace -к with -ци	- руснак (<i>Russian man</i>) - човек (<i>person, human</i>)	- руснаци (<i>Russians</i>) - човеци (<i>humans</i>)
if it ends in -ец, replace -ец with -ци	- американец (<i>American man</i>) - чужденец (<i>foreigner</i>)	- американци (<i>Americans</i>) - чужденци (<i>foreigners</i>)
if it ends in -ър, replace -ър with -ри	- компютър (<i>computer</i>) - метър (<i>meter</i>)	- компютри (<i>computers</i>) - метри (<i>meters</i>)
if it ends in -й, replace -й with -и	музей (<i>museum</i>)	музеи (<i>museums</i>)
to any other multi-syllable nouns add -и	- хотел (<i>hotel</i>) - магазин (<i>shop</i>)	- хотели (<i>hotels</i>) - магазини (<i>shops</i>)



There are various exceptions to the rules above.
Some of the most common cases are listed below.

ден - дни

(*day - days*)

мъж - мъже

(*man - men*)

крак - крака

(*leg - legs*)

влак - влакове

(*train - trains*)

път - пътища

(*road - roads*)

PLURAL NOUNS
(FEMININE)

Rule	Example (singular)	Example (plural)
if it ends in -а or -я, replace -а or -я with -и	- жена (woman) - стая (room)	- жени (women) - стаи (rooms)
if it ends in a consonant, add -и	- нощ (night) - част (part)	- нощи (nights) - части (parts)



Here are some of the exceptions to these rules for feminine nouns:

песен - песни
(song - songs)

ръка - ръце
(hand - hands)

PLURAL NOUNS
(NEUTER)

Rule	Example (singular)	Example (plural)
if it ends in -о, replace -о with -а	- село (village) - нещо (thing)	- села (villages) - неща (things)
if it ends in -е, add -та at the end	- момче (boy) - момиче (girl)	- момчета (boys) - момичета (girls)
if it ends in -ие, we replace -е with -я	събитие (event)	събития (events)
if it ends in -це or -ще, replace -е with -а	- яйце (egg) - училище (school)	- яйца (eggs) - училища (schools)



Here are some of the exceptions to these rules for neuter nouns:

дете - деца
(child - children)

време - времена
(time - times)