

GENDER.

GENDER (from the Latin *genus*, race or family, or the Greek *genos*, kindred or sex,) means the distinction between *sex*. As there are *but two sexes*, the male and the female, there are therefore *only two genders*, the masculine and the feminine.

The MASCULINE GENDER signifies animals of the male sex ; as, *man, lion, &c.*

The FEMININE GENDER signifies animals of the female sex ; as, *woman, lioness.*

PERSONIFICATION.

Nouns belonging to *neither genders* are often spoken of as if possessed of *life*. This is called "*personification*." Thus nouns of *masculine* qualities are put in the *masculine* gender ; and those of *feminine* qualities in the *feminine*.

For example, we say of the *earth*, "*she yields her fruit*;" of *death*, "*he holds mortals in his iron grasp*;" of the *sun*, "*he shines*;" of the *moon*, "*she gives light*."

[No absolute rule can be given as to what nouns should be *personified* by the masculine or feminine : we must chiefly be guided by our taste and judgment.]

RULES FOR FORMING THE FEMININE.

1. Add *ess* to the masculine ; as, *host, hostess, &c.*
2. When the word ends in *or* or *er*, cut out *e* or *o*, and add *ess* ; as, *actor, actress ; arbiter, arbitress ; except tutor, tutoress ; executor, executrix ; widower, widow.*