Ways of forming the feminine gender

There are three ways of forming the feminine gender.

1) By using an entirely different word.

Bachelor (masculine) / spinster or maid (feminine)
Boy / girl
Man / woman
Husband / wife
Father / mother
Brother / sister
Son / daughter
Horse / mare
Monk / nun
Buck / doe
King / queen
Cock / hen
Dog / bitch
Drake / duck
Earl / countess
Gander / geese
Gentleman / lady
Nephew / niece
Uncle / aunt

2) By adding a syllable (-ess, -ine, -trix etc) to the masculine gender

Author (masculine) / authoress (feminine)
Baron / baroness
Count / countess
Giant / giantess
Heir / heiress
Host / hostess
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Lion / lioness
Mayor / mayoress
Poet / poetess
Priest / priestess
In the following -ess is added after dropping the vowel of the masculine ending.

Actor (masculine) / actress (feminine)
Enchanter / enchantress
Duke / duchess
Emperor / empress
Prince / princess
Tiger / tigress
Waiter / waitress
Master / mistress
Sorcerer / sorceress

3) By placing a word before or after

Grandfather / grandmother
Manservant / maidservant
Landlord / landlady
Peacock / peahen
Salesman / saleswoman
Washerman / washerwoman
Notes

A mayor can be a man or a woman. In British English, a mayoress is the wife of a male mayor.

Some words ending in -ess are no longer used. Examples are: authoress and poetess. Author and poet are now used for both men and women. The words steward and stewardess are being replaced by other terms like flight attendant. Note that a flight attendant can be a man
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or a woman.