



# Swedish Gender: En or Ett?

## Swedish Lesson

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## Video transcript

Hey there and welcome to Ablas! In today's video, we're going to be covering Swedish gender, and what the difference is between en and ett. Be sure to download the PDF of today's lesson from the link in the description!

## Swedish gender basics

So let's start by covering the basics of Swedish gender.

Every Swedish noun belongs in one of two groups: common gender (also called en words) and neuter gender (otherwise called ett words). Unfortunately, there isn't one rule to say which gender a word is, so the best thing to do is to remember the gender when you learn a new word.

Let's look at some examples. When we want to say "a cat", we say: en katt. This is because katt is an en word. What about "a house"? ett hus. Because hus uses the neuter gender, we use ett.

But how do we say, "the cat"? Instead of adding en and ett before the noun, we include it as a suffix. That means en katt becomes katten. And ett hus becomes huset with one T at the end.

However, when the noun ends with a vowel like this: skola, we remove the letter E from the suffix. skolan. äppet.

## Most common ett words

Since the large majority of words in Swedish are en words, let's take a look at the most common ett words – that way, you'll have a better idea when figuring out which gender to use.

English	Swedish
a year	<b>ett</b> år
a child	<b>ett</b> barn

English	Swedish
a place	<b>ett</b> ställe
a company	<b>ett</b> företag
a home	<b>ett</b> hem
a country	<b>ett</b> land
a job	<b>ett</b> jobb
a name	<b>ett</b> namn
a problem	<b>ett</b> problem
an end	<b>ett</b> slut

## Conversation

Let's put what we've learned into practice with an example conversation.

	English	Swedish
	Elias and Freja walk through a small town on a sunny afternoon.	Elias och Freja promenerar genom en liten stad en solig eftermiddag.
Elias:	Look, there's a new café over there!	Titta, det är ett nytt kafé där borta!
Freja:	Yes, I see it. Do you want a coffee?	Ja, jag ser det. Vill du ha en kaffe?
Elias:	I'd love one! And maybe a cinnamon bun too.	Gärna! Och kanske en bulle också.
	They walk past a park with a large tree.	De går förbi en park med ett stort träd.
Freja:	What a beautiful tree! And look at that bench under it.	Vilket vackert träd! Och titta på den där bänken under det.
Elias:	Shall we sit there after coffee?	Ska vi sitta där efter kaffet?
Freja:	That's a good idea. Oh, here's a bakery too.	Det är en bra idé. Åh, här är ett bageri också.
Elias:	I love the smell. They sell bread and biscuits.	Jag älskar doften. De säljer bröd och kakor.
Freja:	And cakes! Shall we buy a chocolate cake?	Och tårter! Ska vi köpa en chokladkaka?
Elias:	Yes, that'll be nice for this evening.	Ja, det blir gott till kvällen.
	They walk on and arrive at the square.	De går vidare och kommer till torget.

	English	Swedish
Freja:	Look, there's a small square with a fountain.	Se, där är ett litet torg med en fontän.
Elias:	And there's a flower shop. Do you want flowers?	Och där är en blomsteraffär. Vill du ha blommor?
Freja:	Not today. But we need milk for tomorrow.	Inte idag. Men vi behöver mjölk till imorgon.
Elias:	There's a grocery shop by the station.	Det finns en livsmedelsaffär vid stationen.
Freja:	Great! Let's go there.	Jättebra! Vi går dit.

## It's quiz time!

Were you able to spot the two noun genders in that conversation? Let's test your knowledge with a quiz!

**Which article do we use for the Swedish word "hem"?**

- A. en
- B. ett

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The correct answer is ett. ett hem.

**How do you say "the book" in Swedish?**

- A. en bok
- B. boken
- C. ett bok

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The correct answer is... boken. The two other answers used the indefinite article "a book".

**Which gender do en words belong to?**

- A. Neuter gender
- B. Common gender

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The correct answer is... common gender.

## Your task

Well done for getting this far!

Now your task is to look around your room and find five different items. If you don't know what Swedish gender they are, have a look for the word on our website or in your Swedish dictionary.

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