

## Gender changes from ENHG to Modern German

According to the *Frühneuhochdeutsche Grammatik* (1993: 175-176), the following nouns have changed gender. The list confirms our point that there was massive variation in ENHG, but also gives us an opportunity to consider how these compare to modern German gender patterns.

### ENHG masc. “oder werden gelegentlich mask. verwendet”

sitte  
schlange  
spitze  
asche  
bestek  
ding  
fürstentum  
getreide  
gewerbe  
gunst  
we(h)mut  
not  
reue

### ENHG fem. “oder werden gelegentlich fem. verwendet”

gericht  
gesicht  
gespenst  
kleinmut  
verein  
verhör  
verlust  
verzicht  
splitter  
hochmut  
bericht  
begräbnis

- For each noun, what’s the modern gender?
- What was its historical gender before ENHG?
- Is there modern variability?
- What tendency or rule might account for the absence of masculine gender in the modern language? (Note: There may be more than one factor at play.)