der, die, wie bitte? Grammatical Gender in German

Lehrplan für heute * today's lesson plan

1. Selbstvorstellung: Kurt-Albrecht (2 min)
2. Selbstvorstellungen auf Deutsch: Introduce yourself in German (10 min)
3. Artikel auf Deutsch: Articles and grammatical gender in German (10 min lecture)
4. Wiederholung-Verbindungen: Review-Connections (10 min)
5. gendered language in German (5ish min)
6. german words in japanese/friends and false friends (10min)

Selbstvorstellung: Kurt-Albrecht

- Als Kind habe ich vier Mal in Österreich gelebt und bin dort zur Schule gegangen
  - I lived in Salzburg, Austria, 4 different times as a child and had to go to school there
- Als ich 16 war wohnte ich für ein Jahr in Paderborn, Deutschland, als Austauschschüler
  - When I was 16 I lived in Paderborn, Germany for a year as a high schooler

Willkommen zum Unterricht - Vorstellungen

Take 5-10 minutes to teach everyone to introduce themselves and introduce yourself to five people? lol Japan style

Hallo, ich heiße _____.

Ich bin ein ALT/CIR.

Ich wohne in _____.

Meine Hobbys sind _____.

Es freut mich, dich kennenzulernen!

Grammatical Gender*

Eine kleine Klarstellung: a quick clarification

*Grammatical gender is NOT the same as gendered language.

German also has many instances of gendered language–we'll touch on that at the end.

Gender Declension of Nouns

- German has three grammatical genders for declension
  - masculine, feminine, neuter
  - plural nouns decline the same regardless of the gender in singular UNLESS the noun is a person, in which case the gender may be indicated through the plural declension
- nouns in German are always capitalized

masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
der	die	das	die

männliche Wörter - words that take the masculine

Common Trends

Male job titles

- der Lehrer

Words that end in "-ling"

- der Frühling

Words that end in "-ismus"

- der Kapitalismus

weibliche Wörter - words that take the feminine

Common Trends

Feminine job titles

- die Lehrerin

Words that end in "-e"

- die Tasche

Words that end in "-schaft"

- die Freundschaft

Words that end in "-ung"

- die Zeitung

Words that end in "-heit/-keit"

- die gelegenheit / - die schnelligkeit

sächliche Wörter - words that take the neuter

Common Trends

Words that end in "-chen"

-   das Bäumchen

Words that end in "-kum"

-   das Publikum

Words that end in "-rum"

-   das Zentrum

Words that end in "-nis"

-   das Zeugnis

Words that end in "-tum"

-   das Altertum

plural

Common trends

Words that are (almost) exclusively plural

- die Eltern
- die Zutaten

show a few plural declension forms

Connections Game pairings

Game 1				
der	Frühling	Säugling	Schmetterling	Schützling
die	Erbschaft	Freundschaft	Landschaft	Mannschaft
das	Bäumchen	Heftchen	Kätzchen	Steinchen
die (pl)	Eltern	Ferien	Kosten	Zutaten

Connections game 2

Connections game 3

Grammatical gender vs. gendered language

Here are a few standout sites of discourse in German about how we can talk about people more inclusively.

1. Indicating the gender of groups of people
2. Inclusivity of personal pronouns