2. **Diminutives**

Many German nouns can be turned into diminutives by adding a suffix to the end: "chen" or "lein".

Examples:
- Bär – Bärchen
- Harry – Harrylein

Diminutives denote people, animals and things that are cute or small (e.g. "Brötchen", the German word for roll; it literally means "small bread"). Diminutive forms can also be used as terms of endearment (e.g. "Harrylein").

Forming the diminutive often means a change to the stem vowel.

Examples:
- Schatz – Schätzchen
- Brot – Brötchen

Regardless of the gender of the original word, the diminutive form always turns it into the neuter form.

Examples:
- der Bär - das Bärchen
- der Schatz - das Schätzchen
- der Harry - das Harrylein
Pet names for people

Usually, the use of diminutives as pet names for people is meant as a sign of affection and tenderness. Sometimes the person’s name itself is turned into a diminutive ("Harrylein"). But it’s more common to use the diminutive form of animals or objects.

*Bärchen*  
*Schatzchen*