

## WOMEN AND MEN – DETAILS AND DIFFERENCES

### THE BATTLE OF SEXES

*“Women are a mistake. They are silly and superficial, with no depth or intelligence. They are only interested in trivial things, not serious matters. They are full of empty, meaningless chatter. Their main purpose in life is to look decorative and appealing to men. They are home-makers, men are wage-earners. They are the property of their husbands.”*

Less than 100 years ago, this was the kind of prejudice that forward-thinking women were still up against. As children, middle-class women would learn to cook, sew, and keep the house and perhaps to sing and play a musical instrument. They had to attract a good husband, of course. He would ask the woman's father for permission to marry her and she would be handed over from one man to another like a parcel. There were few “respectable” jobs that women could do. They could look after other people's children or teach.

In Britain, the First World War marked a great change for women. For the first time, they were needed in offices and factories to fill the places of men at war. They proved they were just good as, if not better than, men, even at hard manual labour. But when the war was over, women went back to their homes. Childcare and housework were still their responsibility. The same thing happened during the Second World War.

Now, women are theoretically liberated. They can vote and find work but they still have little social, political or economic power. Few top jobs are held by women. In some jobs, they still receive less pay than men for the same work and on the whole, the upbringing of children is still the mother's responsibility rather than father's. But things are changing. Some people argue that men and women are going to be more and more equal. More and more images have begun to appear in the media of men taking care of the children and doing the housework. They say this reflects what is happening in society and they feel that this trend will continue. Others take the view that things are not going to change that much. For example, the booming women's magazine industry still reinforces the ideas that women's interests are the home, family, children, cooking, decoration, needlework, fashion, beauty – and of course, men. They also argue that many women will be happy to stay at home just like their mothers and grandmothers did in the past.

**Source:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2020742/Battle-sexes-Women-way-men-start-share-housework.html#ixzz2JTBoe1y0>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/wendy-jacobson/the-battle-of-the-sexes-i\\_b\\_421086.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/wendy-jacobson/the-battle-of-the-sexes-i_b_421086.html)

### **1. Answer the questions:**

- 1 What was life like for middle-class women before the First World War?
- 2 Why did the World wars each mark a great change for women?
- 3 How has the position of women changed in Britain since the First World War?
- 4 What are the women's rights now?
- 5 Are men and women treated equally now?

### **2. Find words in the article that mean:**

- 1 unimportant or uninteresting
- 2 pretty and attractive
- 3 unreasonable dislike for a person or group of people
- 4 work done with your hands
- 5 increasing quickly in popularity

### **WOMEN IN THE MILITARY**

Although women are permitted to serve in the military in most countries, only a few countries allow women to fill active roles. The reasons for excluding women have to do with both combat effectiveness and culture. In the first place, it is often argued, women do not make good combat soldiers simply because they are less aggressive than men. In a similar way, it is suggested that since women typically have less upper-body strength than men, they will have problems with carrying weights – including a wounded comrade – around battlefield. Other reasons for excluding women from combat roles have to do with the idea of protecting women. In many cultures, women hold a special place and there is a duty to protect women. For this reason, say the opponents of women in combat, male soldiers could take foolish risks defending women. Related to this idea of protection, another reason why women are excluded from front line units is the threat of sexual assault if women are taken prisoner – a risk that is generally unique to female soldiers. Some people argue that women should not serve in the military at all since they distract male soldiers from their duty.

**Source:** S. Mellor-Clark, Campaign 3 Workbook, Unit 11 Special Air Forces

### **3. Tick the arguments that are mentioned in the text “Women in the Military”:**

- 1 Women do not have the same natural aggression as men.
- 2 God did not intend women to go to war or engage in battle.
- 3 Women typically have less upper-body strength than men.
- 4 Many Wives do not like the idea of their husbands sleeping in a trench with a female.

- 5 Female soldiers cannot carry the same heavy weights as men.
- 6 Male soldiers could take foolish risks in order to defend women.
- 7 Male soldiers might put the protection of women before the mission.
- 8 There is a greater threat of sexual assault for women if they become PWs.
- 9 Female troops are likely to be sexually harassed by male soldiers in their unit.
- 10 Female soldiers could distract male soldiers from doing their job.

#### 4. Complete the words from the texts (The battle of sexes, Women in the Military):

pr_j_d_c_	an unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially the feeling of not liking <u>a particular group of people</u>
m_n__l_l_bo_r	work <u>involving the use of your hands</u>
ta_k_ c_r_ _f	<u>to do the necessary things for someone who needs help or protection</u>
upbr_ng_ng	<u>the way that parents look after their children and teach them to behave</u>
str_ngth	<u>the physical energy that someone has to lift or move things</u>
c_mb_t	<u>fighting during a war</u>
h_m_-m_k_r	<u>someone who cooks, cleans, and washes clothes for their family as their main job</u>
_ct_v_ d_t_	<u>a soldier, pilot etc. who is on active duty belongs to a military force as their main job</u>
w__nd_d	<u>injured, especially with a cut in your flesh</u>

#### 5. Fill in the following words (1 is extra):

serving	prohibits	proven	handle	figures
assigned	involved	compared	pull	make up

#### SHOULD WOMEN BE ALLOWED IN COMBAT? IS IT TIME TO FEMINIZE THE FRONT LINES?

In the U.S.A., women 1 ..... approximately 14% of the armed forces. Though thousands of women have been involved in the fights in Iraq and Afghanistan\*, they have done so while 2 ..... in combat support roles — as medics, logistics officers and so on — because defence policy 3 ..... women from being 4 ..... to any unit whose primary mission is direct combat on the ground.

Pentagon 5 .....show that as of Jan. 3, 110 women had been killed in the war in Iraq compared with about 4,300 men. In the Afghan campaign, 24 women have been killed 6 .....with more than 1,400 men.

Lt. Col. Thomas Dolan, a Cobra helicopter pilot, compares this latest debate to one in the 1990s, when women were approved to fly combat missions. Male Marines were worried women would be unable to 7 ..... the stress and would freeze when it was time to 8 ..... **the** trigger. If a helicopter crashed, would a woman be able to pull her co-pilot from the wreckage? “All the arguments back in 1993, why there shouldn’t be women flying combat missions, have been 9 ..... wrong,” Dolan said, while acknowledging there are some different concerns about ground combat.

*\*Of the roughly 2.2 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 255,000 have been women.*

**Source:**

<http://www.answers.com/topic/women-in-the-military#ixzz1opoWiT2q>  
<http://forums.militaryspot.com/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/9461073/m/2444046487>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\\_in\\_the\\_military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_military)

**6. Match the items which address similar issues:**

- A. (not) to hurt/ undermine *esprit de corps*
  - B. men could (not) trust women in their units
  - C: to develop romantic or sexual relationships, sexual harassment
  - D: the hygiene issue while staying out in the field to be willing to accept the risk of (women being captured and tortured and possibly sexually assaulted)
  - E: (to pass) gender-blind fitness tests
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- 1. while bathroom breaks are no issue for male soldiers, they need a mobile bathroom shelter to preserve the “dignity” of the unit’s females
  - 2. to create sexual tension in the unit
  - 3. there has been little evidence that the integration of women into male units has had a negative impact on important mission-related performance factors, like unit cohesion
  - 4. men would not believe women in their units are capable of accomplishing the physical demands of combat, which could lead to serious problems
  - 5. we need to create *a level playing field*: the physical standards for combat positions should be identical for both men and women

**7. Decide if you are FOR or AGAINST women in military and write a 200 word essay to explain your attitude. Send it to your teacher/tutor. You can use following ideas:**

## **AGAINST WOMEN IN THE MILITARY**

**to intimidate:** Afghan civilians are often not intimidated by female soldiers

**under fire:** women will be treated differently from men by fellow soldiers while under fire, they say. In our culture, we are taught to protect our females

**sexual molestation:** it is too dangerous to put women in the position of becoming prisoners of war. Without a doubt, there is a much greater probability for acts of sexual molestation and rape with the addition of women to the front lines

**quintessential:** to kill the enemy is a man's quintessential job. Women are not aggressive enough to do that. A good soldier must be willing to hurt somebody - what is more, to wipe a bunch of people out. (*informal for: kill some people*).. Front-line fighting is "brutal and uncivilized"

**upper body strength:** to have the upper body strength to haul (= carry) heavy weapons or wounded buddies

**to pull together:** the male instinct to protect females would undermine a unit's ability to pull together and fight effectively.

**readiness:** pregnancies will hurt readiness of the unit. Also, some women might get pregnant to avoid combat

**body bags:** people won't tolerate large numbers of women coming home in body bags

## **FOR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY**

**ill-effects:** there has been little (= almost no) evidence that integrating women into male units has damaged cohesion or had other ill effects

**to be more likely:** Children and women are more likely to talk to female soldiers than to male soldiers.(women can win their hearts and minds)

**to search somebody/ a search on sb.:** having female soldiers serving within a combat unit has the advantage of allowing for searches on female civilians.

**brute strength:** brute strength is not the only qualification

**upper body strength:** upper body strength was needed when people fought with swords, and had to bear the weight of body armour

**full-pack:** some women can easily carry the 75-pound full pack as all the other infantrymen /carry a heavy load like men do

**status-quo:** When President Truman ended racial segregation in the military, defenders of the status quo predicted that units would fall apart if whites were forced to fight alongside blacks. But today our military is a more effective fighting force because of integration.

**cramped:** women's generally smaller size and greater flexibility give them an advantage in cramped tanks or enemy tunnels – for example in Vietnam, where the smallest guy in the unit always got the job of checking out the enemy's underground tunnel

**disciplinary issues/ discipline problems:** Young male and female soldiers will be hanging out. Some people say their commanders will have to deal with a lot of discipline problems. However, the source of those problems is poor leadership, not mixed-gender units.

## **Other useful vocabulary / phrases for writing an essay:**

How you answer that question comes down to beliefs, not facts.

What we believe is up to each of us to decide for ourselves.

The issue won't go away any time soon.  
It's an especially relevant subject because ...

**Source:** <http://www.answers.com/topic/women-in-the-military#ixzz1opoWiT2q>  
<http://forums.militaryspot.com/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/9461073/m/2444046487>  
<http://www.military.com/opinion/0,15202,163773,00.html>  
<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2011/04/marine-women-combat-marines-infantry-041911w/>  
[http://burnpit.us/sites/default/files/blog-image/women\\_combat.JPG](http://burnpit.us/sites/default/files/blog-image/women_combat.JPG)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\\_in\\_the\\_military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_military)  
[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41083172/ns/us\\_news-life/t/military-commission-lift-ban-allow-women-combat/#.T1zkkVz1KTUr](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41083172/ns/us_news-life/t/military-commission-lift-ban-allow-women-combat/#.T1zkkVz1KTUr)

### 8. Decide which points are for or against women in combat:

- 1 On today's battlefield, rear echelon units are in almost as much danger as front line combat units.
- 2 Women are non-deployable when they are pregnant – this affects unit readiness.
- 3 Modern technology means that women do not need physical strength to operate most weapons systems.
- 4 With extensive media coverage of conflict, public opinion may be more affected by female casualties.
- 5 Many professional armies have personnel problems because the number of male volunteers is falling.

**Source:** S. Mellor-Clark, Campaign 3 Workbook, Unit 11 Special Air Forces

**Note:** *Personal* means your own, private. *Personnel* - the people who work for a company or organization, or who are members of a military force.

### 9. Translate the following collocations:

právo bránit svou vlast  
umožnit ženám, aby se staly bojovnicek přední linie  
sloužit v bojové jednotce  
fyzické rozdíly mezi muži a ženami

right to defend your country  
to let women be front-line fighters  
to serve within a combat unit  
physical differences between men and women

mít fyzickou sílu, vytrvalost a duševní a duševní pevnost	have the physical strength, stamina and mental toughness
být efektivní v boji	to be effective in combat
diskriminovat ženy	to discriminate against women
mít kladný vliv na výsledek mise	to have a positive impact on mission accomplishment
být v činné službě	be on active duty

## 10. Read the following paragraphs and do the exercise.

### Problems at work

#### A) Bullying and Harassment

If someone such as a manager **bullies** an employee, they use their position of power to hurt or threaten them, for example verbally. Someone who does this is a **bully**.

**Sexual harassment** is when an employee behaves sexually towards another in a way that they find unwelcome and unacceptable. The related verb is harass.

#### B) Discrimination

If people are treated differently from others in an unfair way, they are **discriminated against**.

If a woman is unfairly treated just because she is a woman, she is a victim of **sex discrimination**. In many organizations, women complain about the **glass ceiling** that allows them to get to a particular level but no further.

If someone is treated unfairly because of their race, they are a victim of **racial discrimination or racism**. Offensive remarks about someone's race are **racist** and the person making them is a **racist**.

In the US, **affirmative action** is when help is given in education and employment to groups who were previously discriminated against. In Britain, affirmative action is known as **equal opportunities**.

Some companies have a **dignity at work policy** covering all the issues described in A and B.

*Complete these headlines and articles with the correct form of words from A and B.*

#### National Restaurant Chain Faces ..... Claims

Four waitresses claim they were repeatedly ..... by male bosses in a branch of a well-known national restaurant chain. All four waitresses said they were subjected to sexist remarks at the restaurant ...

### **Shop Manageress in ..... Case**

A clothing shop's half-Burmese manageress, 24-year-old Marion Brown, claims her boss continually made..... remarks, and sacked her from her £110-a-week job when she objected. She claims that the company that owns the shop has racially .....against her...

### **Japanese women break through .....**

Naomi Tanaka, 23, last year started working on the Tokyo Stock Exchange as a trader. She complained about ..... and said she did not want to be a 'counter lady' answering phones and serving tea at a Japanese bank. Instead she got a job as a trader at Paribas, a French firm .....

### **..... because of Pregnancy**

Mrs Fenton claims that she was ..... and was denied promotion after she told colleagues she was planning to have a baby.