

# Men and Women – Details and Differences



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Operační program Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost

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## Warm-up

*Work in pairs.*

*In pairs, answer the questions.*

- Are you a talkative or a quiet person?
- Who is .....?  
a the most talkative person in your family  
b the most talkative person you know
- Do you think that, generally speaking, women are more talkative than men?
- What topics do men talk about more than women?
- What topics do women talk about more than men?

## Reading and vocabulary

*Read the article **Men talk just as much as women – can it really be true?***

Research by psychologists at the University of Arizona has shown that the stereotype that women talk more than men may not be true. In the study, hundreds of university students were fitted with recorders and the total number of words they used during the day was then counted. The results, published in the New Scientist, showed that women speak about 16.000 words a day and men speak only **slightly** fewer. **In fact**, the four most talkative people in the study were all men.

Professor Mehl, who was in charge of the research, said that he and his colleagues had expected to find that women were more talkative.

However, they had **been sceptical of** the common belief that women use three times as many words as men. This idea became popular after the publication of a book called The Female Brain whose author **claimed** that “a woman uses about 20,000 words per day, **whereas** a man uses about 7,000.”

Professor Mehl accepts that many people will find the results difficult to believe. However, he thinks that this research is important because the stereotype, that women talk too much and men keep quiet, is bad not only for women but also for me. It says that to be a good male , it's better not to talk – that silence is golden.

\*stereotype = fixed idea about a particular type of person or thing, which is often not true in reality.

Source: English File - Intermediate

## Reading and vocabulary

*Answer the questions.*

- 1 What was the stereotype that the researchers wanted to investigate?
- 2 Where was the research done?
- 3 How was the research done?
- 4 What did the research show?

*Now look at the highlighted words and phrases, which are commonly used in articles about research. Match them with 1 – 5 definitions.*

- 1 ..... *adverb* really
- 2 ..... linking word used to connect or contrast two facts
- 3 ..... *adverb* a little bit
- 4 ..... not completely believed, doubted
- 5 ..... *verb* say that sth is true

## Speaking and vocabulary

*Read the statements.*

- 1 Women worry more about their appearance than men.
- 2 Women spend more time than men on social networking sites.
- 3 Men talk more about things; women talk more about people.
- 4 Men are more interested than women in gadgets like phones or tablets.
- 5 Women are better at multitasking than men.
- 6 Men find it more difficult than women to talk to their friends or family if they have a problem.
- 7 Women spend more time than men talking about celebrities and their lifestyles.
- 8 Men are more interested than women in power.
- 9 Women are less interested in sport than men.
- 10 Men worry more about their health than women.

*In small groups discuss if the statements about men and women are stereotypes or true.*

## Speaking and vocabulary

### Collocation: verbs / adjectives + prepositions

#### *Complete the sentences with prepositions (after verbs)*

- 1 He apologized ..... the policeman ..... driving fast.
- 2 Who does this book belong ..... ?
- 3 I never argue ..... my husband ..... money.
- 4 Don't laugh ..... me! I'm doing my best!
- 5 Do you believe ..... ghosts?
- 6 I dreamt ..... my childhood last night.
- 7 We might go out. It depends ..... weather.

#### *Complete the sentences with prepositions (after adjectives)*

- 1 My brother is afraid ..... bats.
- 2 I've never been good ..... sport.
- 3 I'm very close ..... my elder sister.
- 4 We're really excited ..... going to Brazil.
- 5 I don't like people who aren't kind ..... animals.
- 6 Rachel is worried ..... losing her job.
- 7 I'm fed up ..... listening to your complaining.

## Speaking

*Work in pairs.*

*Think about women who have successful career. Choose one – it could be a member of your family, a friend, or a famous woman you know about.*

- Do you know the meaning of the word *sexism*?
- Do you know a woman who succeeded in a man's world?
- Does she also look after a family?
- What about particular problems she might have in her career?
- Has she experienced sexist attitudes from men, or even from other women?
- In your country, is it easy for a woman to become a manager? If not, why do you think it is difficult for a woman to get to the top?
- What does the expression "glass ceiling" mean?

## Role-play

One of you is the director of a big computer company, the other is a trade union representative. Discuss ways to make it easier for women to get promotion in the company.

These ideas may help you:

- creche at the office?
- maternity leave?
- attitudes of present manager?
- equal opportunities?
- flexible working hours?
- extra training?



## Writing

*Give parents some advice on how to avoid “stereotyping” when they bring up their daughters and sons. Write six points like this example:*

“Don’t give boys more attention than girls, even if they want it.”

# Thanks for your attention



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