

Teaching notes

Activity

Individual to pair to group work

Time

20 – 30 minutes

Objective

To discuss gender differences

Language

- Expressions for agreeing and disagreeing: *So do I...*, *You're right about that...*, *That's not true*, etc.
- Comparative structures, *-ing* forms, infinitives with or without *to*

Preparation

Make one copy of the activity sheet on page 23 for each student.

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the activity sheet and give them about four minutes to complete as many of the sentences as they can. They should use a pencil in case they decide to change their answers in steps 2 and 3.
2. Get students into mixed gender pairs, if possible. They now have about 6 minutes to reach an agreement on the best ways to complete as many of these sentences as they can. Write some useful discussion expressions on the board to help, for example,
You're right about that.
Do you really think so?
Why do you say/think that?
I can't say I agree with you on that one.
That's not true.
Well, I am/I do/I don't/I'm not!
3. Get students to now join bigger groups of five or six, breaking up some pairs if necessary. Give them 10-15 minutes to reach a consensus on the sentences. As a whole class, ask each group to report on what they came up with. Allow other groups to react. You may want to vote as a class on the best ones.

Follow-up

Ask students to choose one of their favourite original sentences. They should then go around the class giving their own opinions starting with *I think...* . Other students can then react with some of the auxiliary expressions from the previous unit, *So do I, Really? I don't*, etc.

A. Comparing women with men

1. Women tend to make better
2. Women are definitely better at
3. Women tend to spend more time
4. Generally, women are more interested in
5. Women should more than they currently do.
6. Women are more likely to
7. Unlike men, women would rather than
.....
8. Women will never be able to like men do.

B. Comparing men with women

1. Men tend to make better
2. Men are definitely better at
3. Men tend to spend more time
4. Generally, men are more interested in
5. Men should more than they currently do.
6. Men are more likely to
7. Unlike women, men would rather than
.....
8. Men will never be able to like women do.

*Men and women are
from different planets*

ACTIVITY

Groupwork: speaking

AIM

To read statements and discuss them.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Agreeing and disagreeing with opinions

VOCABULARY

General

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student in the class.

TIME

30 to 40 minutes

PROCEDURE

NOTE: This activity is not designed to reinforce gender stereotypes but to act as a springboard for discussion.

- 1 Give one copy of the worksheet to each student in the class.
 - 2 Ask them to read the statements and to put a number in the column marked 'Your opinion' according to the scale at the top of the worksheet.
 - 3 When they have done this, read out the first statement and ask if anybody agrees strongly or disagrees strongly. Ask them to explain why.
 - 4 Now ask the students to work in groups of three to five. They should take it in turns to read out a statement from the worksheet and discuss it with the other members of the group, giving reasons for their opinions.
 - 5 When the students have finished discussing the statements, ask the class which statements caused most disagreement.
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Men and women are from different planets



<p>1 = agree strongly 2 = agree 3 = it depends 4 = disagree 5 = disagree strongly</p>	<p>Your opinion</p>
<p>Men are better drivers than women.</p>	
<p>Women are more faithful in relationships.</p>	
<p>Girls usually mature more quickly than boys.</p>	
<p>Women are inefficient in the business world because they tend to be too emotional.</p>	
<p>Men and women are born with identical natural abilities.</p>	
<p>Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little.</p>	
<p>Men find it difficult to express their emotions except when their football team scores a goal.</p>	
<p>If more women were in positions of power, there would be fewer wars in the world.</p>	
<p>It is more important for women to take care of their appearance than it is for men.</p>	
<p>Men are from Mars and women are from Venus.</p>	

MEN AND WOMEN



THE CHANGING ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN

- a Complete the text with words/phrases from the list.

breadwinner discrimination divorce rate
do their share equal rights feminine feminist
macho Ms/məz/ new man partner
'politically correct' roles sexism sexist

- b Underline the stress. Practise saying the words.
Say which aspects of the text are true in your country.

MALE AND FEMALE PERSONALITIES: NEGATIVE PREFIXES

- a Decide if the adjectives of personality apply more to men or women. Underline the stress.

ambitious bossy communicative considerate faithful honest imaginative jealous logical mature
organized patient possessive reasonable responsible selfish sensitive sociable tidy vain

- b Many adjectives form the opposite by adding a negative prefix. Put the adjectives from a in the chart. Which prefix is the most common? Which four adjectives don't have an exact opposite?

un-	im-	in-	ir-	il-	dis-
unco-operative	impolite	insecure	irregular	illegal	disloyal

- c Cover the chart. Look at the adjectives in a. Say the opposites.

! Negative prefixes don't normally change the stress on words (*happy* – *unhappy*).

In Britain until the last century the ¹ _____ of the sexes were clearly defined. Women were supposed to be ² _____ (to dress and behave like a woman) and they were considered inferior to men. The man was the ³ _____ (the person who earned the money) while the woman was in charge of the housework and bringing up the children.

Women's demand for ⁴ _____ began in the early 20th century, when they won the right to vote, and began to go out to work. The ⁵ _____ movement in the 1960s campaigned for equal rights for women and equal opportunities at work and for men to ⁶ _____ of the housework and child care. At this time many women started to use the title ⁷ _____ instead of Miss or Mrs.

Since the 1980s people have been encouraged to be more ⁸ _____, i.e. to avoid ⁹ _____ comments and attitudes. In the late 20th century the term ¹⁰ _____ was invented to describe a male ¹¹ _____ who did his share in the house and looked after the children.

Despite improvements most women consider that we still live in a ¹² _____ (male-dominated) society where ¹³ _____ (the unfair treatment of people because of their sex) is common, and that they suffer from ¹⁴ _____ (treating one person or group worse than others), especially at work. Another result of the change in women's role has been a rise in the ¹⁵ _____ as women are more independent financially.