

## Student A

In your group, discuss and guess the information below from the article “Men talk just as much as women – can it really be true?” Write T if you think it is correct and write F if you think it is incorrect.

1. The research from the University of Arizona has found that men talk less than women. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the New Scientist, the results revealed that men speak 17,000 words a day. \_\_\_\_\_
3. None of the most talkative people in the study were women. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The woman who was in charge of the research was Professor Matthias Mehl. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The professor expected women to be more talkative than men. \_\_\_\_\_
6. People normally believe that women talk twice more than men. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Female Brain claimed that a woman uses 13,000 words more than a man. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Professor Mehl knows that most people will believe the results. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The professor believes that the stereotype is bad for men as well. \_\_\_\_\_
10. It is believed that a good man should not talk. \_\_\_\_\_

## Student B

In your group, discuss and guess the information below from the article “A gossip with the girls? Just pick any one of forty subjects” Write T if you think it is correct and write F if you think it is incorrect.

1. Men thought that women are good at gossiping. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Professor Petra Boynton is a psychologist at University College England. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Women always have important conversations when they talk to each other. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Women have more subjects (only 40 subjects) to chat than men. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Women talk about almost everything except sports. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Men like to talk about work, sport, cars, friends, and family. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Professor Boynton's found that women's subject always changes, while men's doesn't. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The professor also says that the reasons that men and women talk are the same. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Women talk to solve problems and cut down stress. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Men talk to enjoy and exchange ideas. \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 Matthias 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* (2006) whose author, Louann Brizendine, 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 men. 'It says that to be a good male, it's better not to talk – that silence is golden.'

**LIVE WORKSHEETS**

Adapted from the *New Scientist*

# A GOSSIP WITH THE GIRLS? JUST PICK ANY ONE OF FORTY SUBJECTS

Women are experts at gossiping – and they often talk about trivial things, or at least that's what men have always thought. However according to research carried out by Professor Petra Boynton, a psychologist at University College London, when women talk to women their conversations are not trivial at all, and cover many more topics (up to 40) than when men talk to other men.

Women's conversations range from health to their houses, from politics to fashion, from films to family, from education to relationship problems. Almost everything, in fact, except football. Men tend to talk about fewer subjects, the most popular being work, sport, jokes, cars, and women.

## Student A

Professor Boynton interviewed over 1,000 women for her study. She also found that women move quickly from one subject to another in conversation, whereas men usually stick to one subject for longer periods of time.

Professor Boynton also says that men and women chat for different reasons. In social situations women use conversation to solve problems and reduce stress, while men chat with each other to have a laugh or to swap opinions.

Adapted from the Daily Mail website



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