BREAKING NEWS ENGLISH

Men funnier than women, says scientist

Men are naturally funnier than women. This is the claim of a UK male professor, Sam Shuster. He conducted research on 400 different people as he unicycled around his town. He observed the reaction of onlookers and discovered that men made more jokes about him than women, and that men's jokes were more aggressive. He said three-quarters of male "jokers" mocked him and made nasty comments, while most women tended to tease him with a smile. He said: "The difference between the men and women was absolutely remarkable and consistent." Professor Shuster believes the male hormone testosterone is the cause of men being funnier. He found that teenage boys were aggressive in their humor and this aggression changed with older men into a funnier form of joking.

Earlier research suggests women and men use humour differently. One study said women tend to tell fewer jokes than men and male comedians outnumber female ones. Another showed men look more for a punchline. Men also use people they know as the subject of their jokes, often in a negative way. Married men seem to like hearing and making jokes about mothers-in-law. British comedian John Moloney disagreed with Professor Shuster's findings. He said that in his 21-year career in comedy, he had never noticed that men were funnier than women. He stated: "The difference is that if a group of women were together and the conversation lulls, they don't automatically start telling jokes, which men do. It then becomes a bit of a competition, but that doesn't mean to say men are funnier."

COMPREHENSION CHECK:

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

1. claim	a. made fun of
2. reaction	b. quietens
3. mocked	c. extraordinary
4. remarkable	d. (be) inclined to
5. aggression	e. topic
6. tend to	f. assertion
7. subject	g. hostility
8. negative	h. conclusions
9. findings	i. response
10. lulls	j. bad

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. A scientist has discovered men have funnier faces than women. T / F
b. The scientist conducted his research while riding a unicycle. T / F
c. The scientist believes male hormones make men funnier. T / F
d. He said men become funnier as they get older. T / F
e. Research shows there are more male than female comedians. T / F
f. Studies suggest men are more interested in a joke's punch line. T / F
g. Men dislike hearing jokes about their wife's mother. T / F
h. Men seem to be more competitive than women at joke telling. T / F

DISCUSSION:

Do you think men are funnier than women?
What do you think are the differences between male and female humor?

LIVEWORKSHEETS