

Present Simple

Read the text about differences between boys and girls at school. Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

exist like score reach explain punish believe



Are girls better students than boys?

Most people think that girls are better students than boys. In England, girls **a** score higher **marks** in **tests** in most subjects and at most ages. At the age of seven, 88% of girls **b** reach the **expected level** for their age, but only 80% of boys do. By the age of 11, the difference is 80% to 69%, and the **gap** is wider at 14 years old. A similar situation **c** exists in the USA and many other countries.

However, two American **researchers**, William Draves and Julie Coates, **d** believe that it is not the boys who are the problem, but the schools. Their book, *Nine Shift: Work, life, and education in the 21st century* **e** explains that in fact boys are better **prepared** for the future. Boys are more interested in computers and the Internet. They **f** like taking **risks**, and thinking about ways of making money and teamwork – things that are important for **success** at work.

The problem is that schools **g** punish boys for this **behaviour** because they are bad at listening and following instructions.

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Make the underlined verbs negative.

- a Boys study more than girls at school.
Boys don't study more than girls at school.
- b The average boy scores higher marks in tests.
The average boy doesn't score higher marks in tests.
- c At seven, 12 % of girls reach the expected level.
At seven, 12 % of girls don't reach the expected level.
- d The researchers say that boys do badly at school because they are less intelligent.
The researchers don't say that boys do badly at school because they are less intelligent.
- e Most schools give prizes to boys for their behaviour.
Most schools don't give prizes to boys for their behaviour.
- f Some boys listen well to their teachers.
Some boys don't listen well to their teachers.
- g William Draves thinks boys are the problem.
William Draves doesn't think boys are the problem.