

Using nouns and adjectives: *male* or *men*?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a There are now more opportunities for females within the police service.
b There are now more opportunities for women within the police service.
- 2 a The chart shows the number of hours worked by men and women employees.
b The chart shows the number of hours worked by male and female employees.

Male and *female* can be used as nouns, but they are only used in very formal or technical writing, or when talking about animals rather than people:

The male tree frog sings to attract a female.

In most spoken and written contexts, we use the nouns *man/men* or *woman/women*:

Nursing and teaching degrees still attract more women than men.

The life expectancy for an average man in Switzerland is 77 years.

Male and *female* are used as adjectives in written and spoken English:

We have a roughly equal number of male and female students.

All the candidates on the shortlist were male.

In informal conversation, people sometimes use *woman* or *lady* before another noun instead of *female*. Some people do not like *lady* used in this way:

a woman/lady doctor

a woman/lady golfer

a woman driver

She was the first woman president of Ireland.

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences using *male*, *female*, *man*, *men*, *woman* or *women*.

- 1 On average, women earn 30 percent less than their colleagues.
- 2 and managers bring different skills to their position.
- 3 The competition is open to both and
- 4 Women sometimes prefer to see a doctor.
- 5 She married a who was twenty years her senior.
- 6 The lays her eggs in a hole in the sand.
- 7 Mrs Thatcher was the first Prime Minister in the UK.
- 8 Children who do not live with their father do not have a strong role model.