29 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.

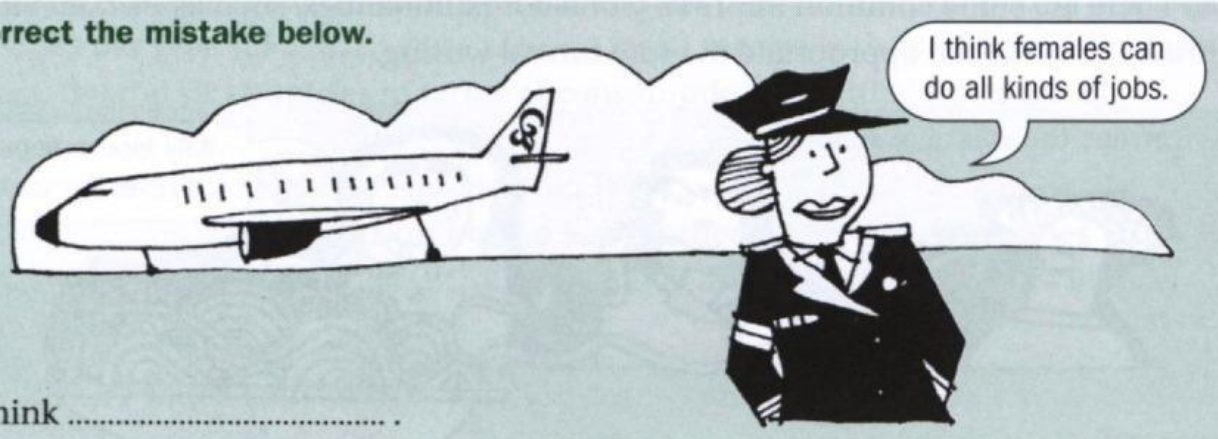
Male and *female* can be used as nouns, but they are only used in very formal or technical writing, or when talking about animals rather than people:
*The **male tree frog** sings to attract a **female**.*

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.



I think ..... .

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS