GENDER-BASED JOBS

I'm a Male Nurse — So What?

April 28, 2013 by Brett Adamson

Brett Adamson has over five years experience working as a nurse for Médecins Sans Frontières. He has just returned from South Sudan where he spent three months working as an emergency nurse with refugees.

I had left high school quite early on and had been working for a few years as a furniture maker. But by my early twenties, I had a growing sense of responsibility and decided to go into nursing.

Historically, the first nurses were male, but that was a very long time ago. Now it's very much a gender defined role, one that has historically been dominated by women. You are never a nurse; you are the *male* nurse.
The whole acceptance of the male nurse is culturally-based. In some cultures, relatives of patients I have treated find it incredibly hilarious that you're a male and you're not an engineer or a doctor. And in other countries, it's far more accepted for males to be nurses.

My friends were very surprised when I told them that I was going to become a nurse. And I still find that I almost have to put up a level of defense when someone asks me what I do. If I say I'm a male nurse, I almost get ready to follow it up with *"and so what?"*
It's actually easier to say that I work for Médecins Sans Frontières than to say I'm a nurse. I do feel like I have to defend the position, or in some ways reinforce my masculinity.

I have had to explain why I work as a nurse because people often think that's not what "real men" do. Because real men are supposed to be engineers or builders. Ironically, nursing is actually an area that requires enormous strength far beyond the physical that is so often attributed to masculinity.

Adapted from http://www.mamamia.com.au/i-am-a-male-nurse-so-what/
English Vibes, Belin Education.

Read the text above and say if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE; give the appropriate line number to justify your answer:

Brett Adamson is a nurse	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
He is employed by a hospital	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
He has chosen this job because he has failed to become a doctor	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
He used to be a furniture maker	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
Male nurses appeared quite recently	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
He feels ashamed of saying he works as a male nurse	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
People think that working as a nurse is not a job for « real men »	TRUE FALSE	line n°____
Working as a nurse is quite an easy job to do	TRUE FALSE	line n°____

LIVEWORKSHEETS