3B Men, women, and children

Do women talk more than men? Yes, in general they probably do.

G articles: *a / an, the,* no article | V collocation: verbs / adjectives + prepositions | P /ə/, two pronunciations of *the*

1 SPEAKING & READING

a 3.17 Listen to three people talking about men and women and complete the highlighted expressions. Do you agree with their opinions?

> **Generalizing**
> 1 ***Generally*** _____, *I think it's true that women worry more about their appearance than men. They spend longer choosing what to wear, doing their hair, and things like that.*
> 2 *I don't think it's true that men are more interested in sport than women. However,* _____ ***the whole****, I think women* _____ ***to*** *have fewer opportunities to actively participate in sport.*
> 3 *I think that* ***in*** _____*, men worry about their health more than women. Hypochondriacs* ***are*** _____ *men, not women.*

b In small groups, discuss the statements below. Say if you think they are a) completely true, b) partly true, or c) completely untrue. Try to use the highlighted expressions from **a**.

Do you think it's true?

- Men make better bosses than women.
- Women are more caring than men.
- Men are better at telling jokes than women.
- Women talk more than men.
- Men are better at navigating than women.
- Women are worse at maths than men.
- Men are more competitive than women.
- Women panic more than men in stressful situations.
- Men are better at assembling IKEA furniture than women.
- Women can multitask better than men.

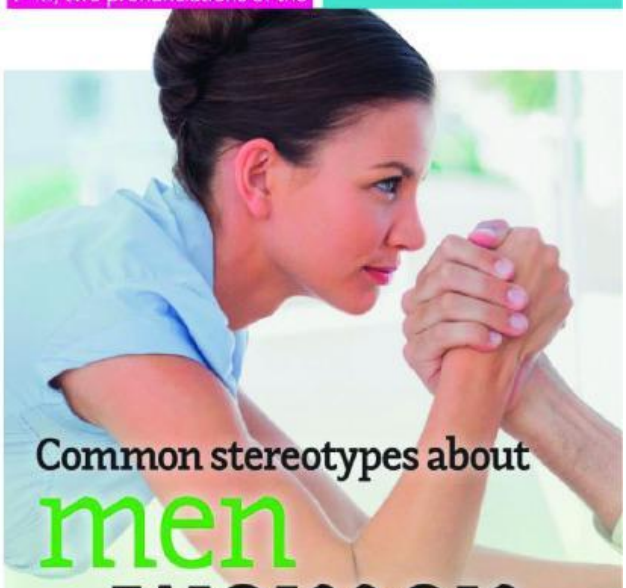
c Read the article about stereotypes. Complete headings 1–5 with statements from **b**.

d Read the article again. Which of the stereotypes 1–5 has been verified by research done...?

a with animals
b by giving participants questionnaires
c through practical experiments with men and women

e Look at the highlighted verbs related to research in the article and answer the questions.

1 Which verb is a synonym for *prove*? _____
2 Which verb is a synonym for *find*? _____
3 Which verb means 'to give reasons why you think something is true'? _____
4 Which verb means 'to become clear that'? _____



Common stereotypes about men and women – but are they really true?

Scientists and psychologists say that there are certain gender stereotypes which they have proved are true, for example, a recent academic study found that men are better at assembling IKEA furniture than women! But can we *really* believe the results of these studies? Here are five more stereotypes which researchers claim are true.

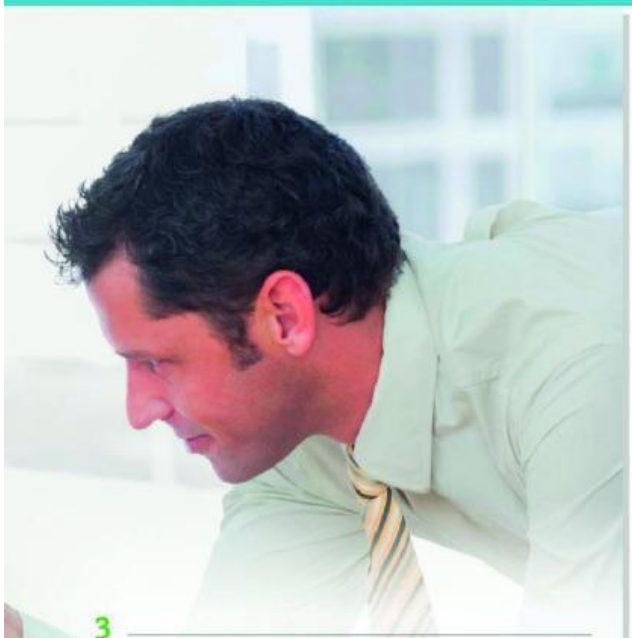
1 _____

Scientists in Norway asked 18 men and 18 women to find their way through a virtual maze, completing various tasks along the way. Men were able to solve 50% more of the problems than women in the same time. 'Men's sense of direction was more effective. They simply got to their destination faster,' said Dr Carl Pintzka of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

2 _____

Researchers from the University of Maryland separated baby rats from their mothers and discovered that baby rats with more Foxp2, a kind of protein necessary for the development of speech and language, made more noise and called to their mothers more often. Moving on to humans, scientists then discovered that women have 30% more Foxp2 than men.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



3

Australian researchers gave 20,000 men and women a list of questions to answer, to discover how they feel if their partner has a problem. Women said they were very affected, but men showed no change. 'It is not that men are unemotional, but they simply are not very emotional when it comes to the feelings of their partner,' said the study's author, Dr Cindy Mervin.

4

Psychologists at the University of Herefordshire gave 50 male and 50 female students eight minutes to perform three tasks at the same time: maths problems, finding restaurants on a map, and drawing a plan for finding a lost key in a field. To make it more difficult, they were asked some general knowledge questions while they worked. The women, it turned out, easily did all four things at once, but not the men – so it seems that this old cliché is true.

5

Professor Laura Mickes and a team of psychologists from the University of California asked men and women to write captions for cartoons in The New Yorker magazine. Without knowing the author, a group of male and female judges preferred the men's jokes. The psychologists argued that men use humour to attract women, who in turn are attracted to men with a good sense of humour.

And some that aren't true...

For every stereotype verified by science, many others turn out not to be true. Recent research shows, for example, that women are just as competitive and aggressive as men, better at driving, and no worse at mathematics. Men, on the other hand, are more insecure in relationships, make worse bosses, and are more likely to panic in stressful conditions.

Adapted from the Daily Telegraph

f Many people would disagree that these five stereotypes are true, in spite of the research. What do you think? With a partner, think of more stereotypes about men and women and discuss if you think they're true or not.

2 GRAMMAR articles

a Complete four jokes with *a / an*, *the*, or – (no article).

1 **Girl** Daddy, did you know that [1]_____ girls are cleverer than [2]_____ boys?
Father No, I didn't know that.
Girl You see!

2 [3]_____ man goes to see [4]_____ lawyer.
Man Excuse me. What do you charge?
Lawyer $1,000 for three questions.
Man Wow! Isn't that [5]_____ bit expensive?
Lawyer Yes. What's your third question?

3 **Doctor** Hello, did you come to see me with [6]_____ eye problem?
Patient Yes! How did you know?
Doctor Because you came in through [7]_____ window instead of [8]_____ door.

4 **Mother** What did you do at [9]_____ school today, Patrick?
Boy It was [10]_____ great day! We made explosives!
Mother And what are you going to do at [11]_____ school tomorrow?
Boy What school?

b 3.18 Listen and check. Do you think any of the jokes are funny?

c G p.137 Grammar Bank 3B

3 PRONUNCIATION /ə/, two pronunciations of *the*

a 3.22 Listen to the words and sound. Then listen and repeat.



a about accident future internet
important person question

b 3.23 Listen and underline five phrases where *the* is pronounced /ðiː/ (**NOT** /ðə/). Why does the pronunciation change? Which phrase in the list is an exception?

the cinema the office the Underground the universe the moon
the internet the sea the accident the evening the dark

c Practise saying some common phrases where *the* is pronounced /ðiː/.

the other day the only way the end of the world
the average person the aim of the exercise
the immediate future the important thing

LIVEWORKSHEETS