
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Male and Female: Networking and Communicating (1st Place)

Marta Elena Leal
R/W 500

Let us try to imagine, as John Gray says, that "the men are from Mars and the women from Venus" and on the basis of it do you think really that we are different? Are these planets really separated in this universe or it is merely a perception? This statement is applied to all: chiefs, executive, managers, consultants, networkers, assistants and secretaries.

Actually, many authors have written about men and women in terms of biological, physical, psychological and thinking styles of decision-making differences. Some have mentioned for example that the anatomical and physiological differences cause that the woman has some senses more developed; for example, the hard trunk that connects both cerebral hemispheres can be the double the width in the woman than in the man. This is what determines in the woman a greater capacity of relation between acts and feelings and diverse elements in the same situation. Apparently, the ego of the woman also is even necessary to understand this relation as "it is precise to know itself to be more free and to communicate." Several writers have shown how these differences can influence their behaviors.

Thinking style is one of the main aspects influencing men's and women's behaviors. Important journals have clearly established that extreme thinking styles exist. And these are defined as thinkers and feelers. Thinkers refer to men who are rational, logic and dispassionate. They believe the universe is governed by objective, consistent rules of cause and effect. Rights and wrongs are absolute. Feelers refer to women who have subjective and humanistic frame of reference. There are not absolute rights and wrongs. They accept no rational experiences without needing to know the specific cause for those feelings.

Journals also infer that one person expressing a tendency toward thinker or feeler style may be unaware that it is in fact harmful. Thinking styles play an important role in the world of connections. It's a potential source of problems especially when men come to networking with women where negotiation is important to get commitment results.

"Men are such jerks when it comes to networking with women," says a corporate attorney in Philadelphia who's now job hunting. "Maybe I'm over-generalizing, but the fact remains that my most unpleasant networking experiences have been in meetings with men." Women job hunters frequently complain that men are terrible networkers. They say networking with men can be frustrating, demeaning and unproductive. These

problems often are described by women as MTS (male testosterone syndrome) or FHS (female hypersensitive syndrome). Women say that men use a conflict-based model; men think they know everything; they lack sensitivity, flexibility, sympathy, empathy and prefer to dominate. Men say that women want every interaction to establish a warm bond and be deeply meaningful. Many men assert that what the women define as MTS is not related with a gender difference and women feel dominated because the workplace is still male-dominated.

Networking is a very important skill for job seekers and headhunters. When people network, both parties need to share some basic information and if they don't, the networking will break down. Douglas Richardson, who heads The Richardson Group, an executive coaching, career development and personal effectiveness consulting firm in Narberth, Pennsylvania and who is an authority on team and interpersonal communications, states that "women are tired of being treated like chopped liver." He says that men often dismiss, patronize or compete with women and, on the other hand, women don't usually have these kinds of problems when networking with other women.

According to Deborah Tannen, intimacy is a needed networking's attribute. She said "Intimacy is key in a world of connection where individuals negotiate complex networks of friendship, minimize differences, try to reach consensus and avoid the appearance of superiority." Likewise, the psychologist Carol Gilligan theorized a crucial difference between female and male and is that men are motivated by hierarchy and status while women form webs and find motivation in working within the connections (it was mentioned by Mary Wise--UF volleyball coach--during the 16th Annual Women's Leadership Conference when she spoke of a different kind of network--the web)

When women come into business networking, they prefer to develop relationships in more intimate talks and then get down to business, whereas men focus on business and may never form personal bonds. Since women often are the primary caregivers at home, it's also easier for them to fit in smaller discussion groups that meet evenings or weekends. "What's happening is that the traditional white-male style of networking doesn't work for us, and we're carving out our own way of connecting," says Julia Hubbell, a Denver-based speaker and consultant on networking. Although women are welcome in networking groups that include men, they often don't find the personal connection they seek in those discussions, "they post a question and someone gives the answer, period. Women do it differently. Their posts are like literature. They talk about life and non work stuff."

Professional and executive women apply untraditional and useful networking ways with each other:

Online groups: Members pay no charge to join and post daily messages related to their professional and personal needs. Typical messages include job postings or questions ranging from how to fire a friend to finding lodging for a college student in another city.

Book clubs: women can discuss new books, often about women's career issues, with other professional women. Intimate communications happen in a book club, because women are talking about personal experiences. Do you imagine men sharing as much?

Manicure sessions: "Even though women often will skip business lunches, they'll make time for manicures with business contacts during the lunch hour because they can network and take care of personal needs," says Cynthia Tsai, chief executive officer of New York-based Health Expo, a consumer health-event company. Going to a salon is conducive to this because "women in salons relax in a different way," says Ms. Tsai. "We know business opportunities exist or we wouldn't be meeting, but this gives us a chance to learn about each other as women."

Dinners: Professional women meet for dinner a day of each month to discuss their jobs and career issues. It also helps the women feel less isolated from each other. I want to mention an interesting example to explain it: while living in Spokane, a few years ago, Ms. Hubbell formed a group to connect executive and professional women who didn't know each other. Within three years, it had grown to about 60 women between the ages of 27 and 54 who attend one 90-minute lunch and one potluck dinner each month to discuss careers and personal topics.

Hobby groups: Having common hobbies is also a networking way. Rebecca Palm who is president of software company Comtech Solutions Worldwide Inc. in Houston says "bonds have been developed between the women in her neighborhood who play Bunco, a parlor game for 12 players. You share information and you end up making relationships that go in all different directions."

Now, knowing the different forms in the ways men and women communicate, it's thought that female and male networking and communication differences can be solved or at least minimized if we focus on three main goals every time we communicate:

Goal oriented--get the job done.

A relational goal--avoiding damage to the relationships between you and others because of your messages.

An identity management goal--your communication must be aligned with the image that you want to project.

Women must ask questions without using negative labels or denials, must be careful performing key questioning to take the control and the questions should be done in a way that they keep the control of the conversation and the most important thing is women must follow the approach to ask specific questions instead of general questions (named open-ended questions). Also, women should transmit a certainty posture, expressing complete sentences and avoiding undercutting the verbal communication with no verbal actions and likewise avoiding the use of question's intonations when performing expositive declarations.

After this reviewing, we can conclude that:

--We are so different as if we came from different planets: the men are from Mars and the women are from Venus. Without the recognition of the differences, it would be hardly possible to be given a step ahead in the communication between men and women.

--When better including/understanding those differences, instead of hitting, our worlds can be united with greater harmony, cooperation and collaboration.

--These two planets have different values and sensitivities. For that reason if we don't take the things in personal form and we use this information to learn how to avoid bothering each other, our relationships will be easier and more satisfactory.

--Attributes like intimacy determines the success of networking in a world of connections.

--When knowing the different thinking styles between men and women influencing networking and communications and by looking for strategies and solutions as mentioned above to improve these communications, an extra stimulus will have to gain the respect, the support and the confidence that is deserved.

--When the men and the women learn the mutual keys to gain the respect and the confidence in their different worlds, the doors of success, cooperation and collaboration will continue opening themselves.

How Is This Semester? (2nd Place)

Cheng-Kang Guan (Ken)

R/W Hi-Intermediate 2

Time is speedily running out. Amazingly, now is almost the ending of this semester. Many unforgettable events happened in this semester, including making international friends, participating in activities, learning English in the classes, meeting with conversation partners, and moving into houses.

I made enthusiastic friends who come from Venezuela, polite friends who come from Korea, kind friends who come from the Middle East, and vital friends who come from South America. I realized that no matter which countries they are from, if I treat them with sincerity, being friends with them is very easy and comfortable. Furthermore, all the language assistants are very patient and kind. We studied, played, ate, and talked together, so I do not want to be separated from them. I had no friends when I came here. Now, most of my friends will leave me to realize their dreams. I hope we can keep our friendship forever, and then maybe we will meet together again in the near future.

Through playing Frisbee and soccer, joining coffee talk, seeing the movies, and participating in the weekend activities, I reduced my pressure and practiced my listening and speaking skills. Moreover, I could learn some American culture. The more activities I joined, the more questions I asked, then the more English I understood. This sentence is my motto in the ELI. On Volunteer Day, meeting many kinds of people and working with them including cooking food and building houses for homeless people, I gained extremely valuable experiences.

For example, talking to native people without help is a very good way to test my listening and speaking ability, especially on the phone.

On the other side, reading/writing class and grammar class were challenges for me. In the beginning of this semester I almost could not understand even finish reading all the articles which the teacher required us to read in the class. Though I cannot finish reading articles very fast and understand the detail of the articles now, at least I can finish reading those almost on time and understand what the articles mean. I know my reading skill is not good enough, so I keep reading more articles and newspapers. I have no bravery to read my essays which I wrote before the middle of this semester because there were more than 10 correcting marks in each paragraph and no sentences over fifteen words. In the grammar class, even though I had heard some grammar rules before the teacher taught in the class, I was frequently confused about the rules which the teacher taught until the exams were reviewed by my grammar teacher.

Meeting with conversation partners is one of my favorite programs in the ELI. We can talk to one or more UF students to practice English and exchange our different experiences. They helped me a lot about how to live in Gainesville. Even though some of them just wanted to get some information from me to do research or homework, I still got some chances to know what the UF students do in their university life. Now, I, however, have a very kind conversation partner whom I have never met before.

Finally, finding and moving into a house in Gainesville is very complicated for me. In order to practice myself, I found the apartment and negotiated with agents by myself. Even though sometimes I requested they repeat what they said, eventually I made a contract with one of the apartment managers, and I read all content of the contract before I signed up. I will move to another apartment soon, and I hope I can move out smoothly.

Some of my experiences in this semester are good, and some of them are not very good, but all of them are valuable and marvelous. I hope all of the managers, employees, teachers, language assistants, and students in ELI will not forget about this semester.

Did Man Really Land on the Moon?

Jang Hoon Park (Chang)

R/W High Intermediate 2

At 10:56 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on July 20, 1969, Neil A. Armstrong was ready to plant the first human foot on another world. With more than half a billion people watching on television, he climbed down the ladder and proclaimed, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Most Americans were widely excited by the Stars and Stripes fixed into the ground of the moon. About 20 years later, however, Ralph Rene was swayed by some doubts while watching the old scene: "How can the flag be fluttering?" The 47-year-old American kept asking himself how it could be fluttering without wind in the free atmosphere. He began to investigate the Apollo project with his friends, examining every

film, photo, and report NASA offered. And finally, they reached a shocking conclusion: America had never put a man on the moon. All Apollo projects were fake and fabricated.

First of all, as Rene mentioned before, the flag was fluttering despite the fact that the moon has no atmosphere and no air. Some people said Rene had to pay attention to the flagstaff of the flag. They insisted that there should be one more crossbar on the flag, and it should cause the fluttering. Of course, if it were not for the "optional" crossbar, people couldn't see the whole Star-Spangled Banner. However, the fluttering didn't happen while the astronaut set up the flag. It flapped constantly by itself even after finishing the setup. The phenomenon never happens in no wind like the moon.

Second, there are some points of doubt in many pictures. At that time, the only lighting on the moon was the sun: no lighting on the spaceship "Apollo 11" or on the space suits of the astronauts. Although there was the one lighting source, shadows of the spaceship, the astronauts, and rocks on the moon spread to the different directions in some pictures. In addition to the shadows, there is one more problem in a picture of one astronaut. It is a front view of the man with his back against the sun. Shadows of the man and rock have no problem: they were parallel to the front. However, a mask of the astronaut is so clear in the picture like being in the spotlight or flash. How could it happen though the sun was behind of him? Of course, the sun was the only lighting.

Third, there is something questionable in the film NASA offered to the public: the movement of the astronauts and the lunar rover. They are nearly flying about because the gravity of the moon is a sixth of the earth. It may look natural under the circumstance. However, when the film is played at double speed, the movement is exactly the same on the earth. The scene of going up the space ship is more suspicious. When it goes up, there are no exhausted fumes coming out the rocket engine nozzle. It just pops up suddenly without any fumes; it looks like it was jerked up by a cable! Practically, some film directors say it could happen to make a fake film about a lunar landing. Paul N. Lazarus, the director of the film "Capricorn One (1978)" said that NASA could indeed invent the whole film if they wanted. He thought it could be done in that time because technology was developed enough. Actually, the scene of the lunar landing in the film NASA offered was similar to "Capricorn One"

In conclusion, there are some suspicious points about the lunar landing. A lot of people are raising questions - not absurd, but scientific. They have enough persuasive power to believe the landing is a fake. Their opinions are becoming more logical. On the other hand, NASA has bypassed it for over 15 years. A spokesman of NASA said they didn't have to refute those opinions. Before everything else, NASA should investigate of the truth about the Apollo project. They have to demonstrate all evidence of the landing not only for the opponents, but humanity.

About My Hometown

Martina Cheng

R/W Low-Intermediate

My hometown is Taichung. Taichung is the largest city in central Taiwan. The city flower for Taichung is the Christmas Kalanchoe, the city tree is the Palimara Alstonia, and the city bird is the Little Equrt.

Taichung city is divided into eight districts. There is a leader in each district with some 14,000 people. Administrative officials all work together for the city government. Taichung city was established 300 years ago. The city is beautiful. The famous foods are pineapples and pearl tea. The biggest department store in Asia is in Taichung so many people go shopping on the weekend. The weather has four seasons in my hometown. It usually is very hot. I like the sunshine. When the weather is hot, we go to the beach and BBQ.

In my hometown, people usually go to temples. Their religion is Taoism. Sometimes, my mother and I go to the temples. My younger sister still likes to go to the temples. She thinks that if she prays, she will have a wonderful future. She believes in fortune-tellers. But I don't believe in them. There are many cultural facilities, buildings and temples in my city. In the future, we hope that Taichung will become an international city.

Why I Am Homesick

Jose J. Palacios

R/W 300

At the moment I am far away from my home. Right now I am living in Florida but only for a short time. I Love the United States of America as much as I love Puerto Rico. The people in Florida are nice, but my home and my family are in Puerto Rico. I am homesick for three things: my wife, my daughters/son and their families, and Puerto Rican food.

In Puerto Rican culture, family relationships are very important. This custom is ingrained deep in my feelings. God privileged me because I have a beautiful family. I have six children. Five of them are female and the other is male. God also privileged with my wife, Carmen. Carmen is a great companion (partner). She is nice, a good mother, and a beautiful woman. Soon, we will celebrate our 41st anniversary.

I have a lot of desire to see my grandchildren. I have five grandchildren, two boys and three girls. My eldest grandchild is Derrick; he is 13 years old. He is in the eighth grade and plays basketball. The other boy's name is Jose Juan and he is 9 years old. He is in the fourth grade and he plays baseball. Jose is a very good player and he has been selected to be on the all-star team representing his league in Puerto Rico when they play in the United States of America and the Dominican Republic. My three granddaughters are beautiful and graceful little girls. They are very intelligent and have very good grades in school. The eldest is Jaresky; she is 9 years old; and Johanna and Jameris are 7 years old.

Besides missing my family, I miss the food. One of the most important things to the Puerto Rican people is the food. It is impossible for me to live without rice and beans for a long time. The rice with chicken mixed together with fried plantain chips and avocado is an extraordinary and unique creole meal.

People that are as part of a culture appreciate their own culture. That is my situation. Every day I count the days left to return. Soon I will return to the Pearl of the Caribbean Sea!

Technology: Pros and Cons

Ki Yong Nam (Sam)

R/W 300

Improvement of technology makes human-life-style convenient. Human life has been changed by every technological evolution from the Agricultural Age to the Technology-intensive Age, and from the Technology-intensive Age to the Knowledge-intensive Age. However, the progress of industry does not mean progress of humanity because the more technology grows, the more problems appear, simultaneously. These are examples of cons and pros of technological progress:

1. The theory of relativity and the nuclear bomb.
2. Genetic engineering and bioethics.
3. The development of computer science and the isolation of people.

First of all, the theory of relativity which was made by Einstein affected modern physics. His theory, which is related to nuclear fusion and fission, has influenced the development of the atomic generation, but he didn't know that the theory would mean the appearance of the nuclear bomb which is the most horrible weapon since humans existed.

Second, the improvement of genetic engineering makes medical science and life science improve. Various diseases which did not have a cure, now can be treated. Many kinds of genetically modified products could be developed. However, many bioethicists warn about the danger of genetic engineering. Also, the Papal Court warned about the possibility of human cloning. Obviously, It is true that there are many problems in genetic engineering.

Last, the development of computer science makes human life convenient. E-mail, telecommuting, and telecommunication, etc, and many kinds of the conveniences were introduced. As a result, physical interchange between people was reduced. The days that people had to stand in front of the mailbox are gone. People are becoming individualistic and isolated.

Every improvement of technology develops problems as much as the technology makes progress. As much as people enjoy the convenience of the technology, people need to be responsible for the usage of technology. It is not important whether the technology develops or not. The most important thing is how to use technology. Sometimes, I think that the people who lived in the Agricultural Age had happier lives than the people who live in modern society. People have to

remember that the keyword for a happy life is the human being, not technology.

The Pros and Cons of Cars

Tomoko Gamada

RW 300

In today's world almost all families have a car. I think it is a wonderful technology. A lot of people expect cars to have convenience and safety. However, there are disadvantages along with benefits when we use cars everyday.

First, I tend to choose an easy way rather than a hard way in my life everyday, but this isn't good for my health. For example, I would exercise, if I took a bicycle to the supermarket next to my apartment. However, I often use my car when I go to buy foods for my family. The car is so convenient to carry a lot of foods. Also, using a car is safer than walking the roads in the USA. When I go to the bank or I go to a friend's house somewhere, I think I need a car in my daily life. A car is necessary for me in my life. But I don't walk a lot so I lose my health day by day in the USA.

Second, the car's user makes environmental pollution when we use our car. Usually I use the freeway where there are many cars and trucks every place I go. Many exhausts result in pollution. It is an issue for allergic people. In return for convenience, cars cause environmental pollution.

Third, I have to pay a lot of money to keep the car in order. And we pay automobile insurance, state taxes, repair fees and gas fees. We keep our car in good condition always in order so it runs efficiently every day. If I take care of my car, I can use it conveniently from my garage to go where I want to go.

Technology is good for me but it is bad for me. I keep in mind that convenience and efficiency are very important on busy days but, like the car, technology has bad aspects also.

Change Your Mind About Swimming

Jong Beom Kim

R/W Low-Intermediate

Many people tell me "I can't swim", "I didn't ever learn to swim", "I'm scared of deep water". When I hear this I say to them "If you want to swim in the water you are going to drown yourself!" What I mean is, if you head into the water your body will float to the surface but if you try to lift your head out of the water your body will go under! Don't worry!

We lived in water in our mother's bodies. Your body remembers that and it knows "how to swim". Swimming is very natural. If you know how to stay on the surface you can move in the water very easily. Just kick on the water and move your arms in a stroke. When your body is on the surface think "My body is like a tree so I must float on the water." And the legs and feet just kick. Maybe you can move your feet too. This is swimming. Remember—relax!

Homesickness: A Strength or a Weakness

Shu-Shing Hwang (Connie)

RW 300

Leaving my family was not easy because my parents always think I am the little baby, even though I am thirty-two years old. Studying is the most important goal for me at this time in my life. I made a choice to come to America. When I arrived here to study at the ELI, I thought that studying was difficult. I must speak English, listen to English, and write in English everywhere and everyday. I get sad and miss my parents, my sister, my friends, and my country. Although life in America is not easy, I decided to keep my power and my energy.

First, when I get sad, my younger brother, Ben, can help me. My brother has lived here two years and he always gives me some suggestions. I didn't feel lonely at all. Ben taught me how to speak English, how to ride to school, how to find the help I need. He always stands by me.

When I was homesick for several weeks, I had to choose to change my mind. Suddenly I went outside and walked around Lake Alice. I forgot homesickness, I just exercised and got a healthy body. My friend, Julie, always calls me and we talk about my habits, homework, cooking, etc. I wasn't lonely. When I passed the driver's license exam, the officer was happier than I was.

Finally, I decided to stay here and study here next semester. I want to be a good English speaker -- that is a goal I have never thought about. It is a great chance to change my life. I'm not sure what I can give, but homesickness has brought me not only sadness but also strength. Now I enjoy my life in America and have a positive attitude. I have the new attitude thanks to my homesickness.

Immigration

Jorge Malo

R/W Low-Intermediate

There are many motivations for immigration. First, Economic Opportunities. People leave their countries to find great jobs. There is a lot of unemployment in their countries and the salary is too low. They look for hope in other countries. They want to change their lifestyles. They describe these countries as "The Land of Opportunity". However there are many employers who treat their immigrant employees badly. They treat their immigrant employees as slaves and they don't respect the human rights. The governments should punish them. The immigrants have dreams but they don't always come true.

Second, Freedom of Religion. People leave their countries because they can't practice their religion. They don't have religious freedom so they look for religious freedom in other countries.

Third, Democracy. People leave their countries because they disagree with their Governments Policies. They can't say their opinions to the Government. If they said their opinions, the government would punish them. They have to

look for asylum in other countries if they say their opinions to the government.

Finally, A Safe Place. People leave their countries because of Natural Catastrophes like earthquakes, tidal waves, etc. They look for shelter in other countries.

In conclusion, it is difficult for immigrants to move to a new country. It could have serious consequences. There are many people who try to immigrate illegally. Many people take advantage of them like smugglers who trick them. Many immigrants die because of this reason. They look for hope but sometimes they find death.

My Horses

Camilo Jimenez-Castillo

R/W Low-Intermediate

My horses' names are "Comandante" and "Principe de la Ribera". In English they mean "Commander" and "Prince of the Shore".

I love my horses because I have had these horses since they were born. First I'd like talk about Commander. He is a black horse and five years old. He is a paso fino horse. I love him because he is very noble and loyal. I love to ride my horses because they are very elegant when they walk. Principe is younger and more wild than Commander. He is two years old but I think in the future he will be a better horse than Commander.

In the horse world, breeding is very important because among pure-breed fathers you have better blood. Principe is better than Comandante because his father is one of the most famous paso fino horses in the world.

In my country, Colombia, people care a lot about horses. I live in my town where people love horses. Four or five times a year in my town the people have a festival called "Cabalgata". Cabalgata is when the people ride the horses in the streets and wander through the town.

I love my country Colombia and my horses Comandante and Principe.

The Volunteer Day

Cheng-Kang Guan (Ken)

R/W Hi-Intermediate 2

I went to St. Francis House to help prepare and serve food for homeless people on this Friday. Actually, this was my second time going there because I had a good experience the first time. This time, some of my experiences which made me feel sad and angry at that moment changed my attitude of life a little bit.

When first time I went to St. Francis House to help homeless people, I just prepared and organized the food in the food store. For the reason that I had been the United States for 1 month, I felt my English listening ability was not good enough to solve and answer the questions which the homeless people asked. Besides, not only ELI students but also UF students participated in this volunteer activity, so I could practice my

English with UF students. Talking to UF students is easier than talking to homeless people for me, because I could not understand many of the accents that came from homeless people. Overall, I had a good time with UF and ELI students and cooks in St. Francis House.

However, until the weekend, I had been here for four months. In order to test my listening ability in English, I encouraged myself to stand at the food bar. Some of the homeless people are very kind, and some of them are funny, so I was interested in this volunteer day for the most part. Although most of them are friendly, few of them could not control their mood very well. For example, one of them requested me to give him double amount of meat, I told him, "I am sorry, the Ward who is the chef in St. Francis House told us that I could not serve the food over standard." He was very angry, and spoke a lot of "informal words". Actually, I was not angry but sad, because if I gave him the extra food, the food might be not enough to give others, even though I really wanted to give him. At that time, I told myself that if I wanted to give them enough food, first I needed to have enough ability to feed and support myself.

For another instance, one of them requested me to give her the salt; nevertheless, I could not give her, because the chef also told me that we did not have enough seasoning, so all the seasonings in kitchen were just used in cooking. Even though I thought this was a reasonable request, I could not satisfy her. After beseeching several times, she insulted to me not only with "informal words," but also race and country segregation. Before this weekend sometimes I only felt maybe some of the Americans I met had race segregation, but this was my first time to hear the complaint about segregation, after I came here. At the moment, I thought maybe the Emancipation Proclamation just focused between white and black people, excluding other color people, and maybe the Constitution and Declaration of Independence just protected American except the people who live in America. I was extremely angry, but I still told her I was sorry about that because I could not make this decision.

Now, I feel I was wrong. I should not have been angry, because she said those words just because of her transient temper. I think if I requested the waiter to give me salt in a restaurant, but the waiter would not gave me, my temper might be the same as her at that moment. No matter what she or he who requested me to give them something in St. Francis said at that time, I am very happy now, because I got the new motivation to push my studying and knew how to control my emotion from this experience.

My Family is Interesting

Hee Young Yang

R/W Low-Intermediate

I have three people in my family. My wife is forty-nine years old and my daughter is twenty years old. My wife stays at home and my daughter goes to Santa Fe College.

Sometimes I want to go play golf but my wife and daughter wants to take a walk in the park. So, we are fighting because we have different thoughts and schedules.

My wife likes a computer game called "go-stop" which is like American playing cards. My daughter likes computer games too.

We have one computer on the desk at home. Everyday we are fighting about who can use it. Every time I see the computer, I think of my family.

I love my wife and daughter and I'm happy even though we disagree sometimes.

In R/W 500 we explored the psychological differences between men and women. Here is a partial list of the articles and essays we read to use as sources for the student essays that follow.

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The Psychological Differences between Males and Females

Jaewon Seo

R/W 500

Women who are goal-oriented, like a challenge, and are adventurous like the cowgirl or the earth mother. A man who shares his emotions with his partner and can dress up well like the metrosexual. What do you think about these people? Maybe most of you think that they are cool because we live in the society that considers people who have both male and female characteristics bright and smart. Today, people tend to

regard this type of person, called a psychological bigender or an androgynous person, as an ideal model. I think the fact that people assume to have both genders' characteristics means that they've already recognized the differences between men and women. How can we explain this situation if there are not any differences between genders? We can easily find many differences between men and women in articles, journals, research, and our own experiences beyond our expectations.

"Though all humans need both intimacy and independence, women tend to focus on the first and men on the second," said Tannen, who is a famous sociolinguist. Women want to discuss issues with their partner when they make a decision. If their partner makes a plan without any discussing, they must be upset. According to Tannen, women assume "the spouse discusses their plans with each other because their lives are intertwined." It means that women respect others' opinion as their own. On the other hand, men take care of their own business without discussing with their partner. If they have to make a decision by discussing with someone, they feel that they are dependent and even ashamed. It is caused by the fact that man wants to show himself a strong and self-supporting person.

Also, we can find a difference between males and females in the spouse selection. Through "The perfect spouse survey," conducted by Stephen W. Flocks, who teaches at University of Florida English Language Institute, we can figure out that ideal spouse models are different between both sexes. Most men think that their wives must be attractive while women think that trust and reliability are the most important things to choose their husbands. It shows men and women have a different way of thinking. In men's case, thinking that attraction is the most important thing means that they focus on women's appearances and are sensitive to what is visible. On the other hand, women think what is inside men is more important than their appearances.

It is also a good way to figure out gender differences through a different attitude about shopping. Here is a related joke, "A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man" (<http://www.1-famous-quotes.com>). It shows women are partial to shopping, with, according to Stacy, "Women generally being more experienced and comfortable with shopping" (2000, p. 3A). How about men? They feel stress when they're shopping. I can find men sitting on the chair and taking a rest in the department store very often while their wives were enjoying shopping.

For now, we figure out the differences between men and women in the three views that are making a decision, spouse selection, and attitude about shopping. Based on some articles, we can conclude that men focus on independence, think appearance is the most important thing in spouse selection, and feel stress while shopping. Also, we can understand that women assume intimacy, value what's inside of men when they choose husbands, and feel comfortable when they're shopping. Like this, there are apparent psychological differences between males and females based on scientific evidence.

Psychological Differences Between Males and Females

Alejandro Velásquez
R/W 500

It used to be easier to recognize and differentiate a man and a woman. Nowadays the society has changed a lot and the roles and the way men and women dress are very alike. However, not a long time ago if you were walking down the street and you saw a person wearing a skirt, with long hair it would probably be a woman and if you saw a big, strong looking person wearing a t-shirt and a cap it would probably be a man. In the 21st century you don't know that for sure anymore; you can see strange things these days. There are women that look stronger than any men, and there are men that want to have a female look. You can be tricked only by seeing them wearing something; they can disguise so well that you won't now which sex this person is, but if you see them naked you will immediately notice huge differences. It is obvious that men and women are physically and biologically different. The psychological differences could be connected in certain ways to the physical differences. Moreover, the physical differences could be a cause for the psychological differences. Men and also women are so interested in their psychological differences, that this field has become very popular among the scientific community. Although men and women share a lot of physical and psychological characteristics, researchers and scientists around the world have conducted many experiments to find out why the differences in psychological aspects are so big. They have found that both sexes have different ways to communicate, navigate and women have better emotional memory skills.

Life has become easier with the technological advances that have been made during history. It is amazing how dramatically people's lives have changed since we first got down from the trees and got together forming groups. In those days it was not so easy for the human societies or groups to find food to feed their children and of course their own selves. There were no industrialized farms or big food factories producers. There were of course no supermarkets or any place where you can buy food. In the past people had to go hunting. The physical differences between men and women were the factor that decided who were the ones better suited for hunting. Research has shown that men are better than women at finding their way to unknown places; they even navigate using different strategies and sides of the brain. The brain is composed basically of two big sides that work differently and are used for different skills. Usually the right side of the brain is associated with the imagination and artistic issues, and the left side is generally associated with the rational things, such as geometry and languages. Both sides of the brain are used while men navigating; on the other hand women only use one side, the right one. Women tend to navigate using landmarks, while men usually do it with directions and geometry. The fact that men had to go hunting to find the food for the family gives us an idea of how were these psychological differences developed. While men were hunting, women had to stay in the village or home with the children and the other women. There were not

many activities to do in those times. Speaking must have been a common one among the women; they didn't have much to do but talking and taking care of the children. On the other hand men went far away from home to find food; this implies that they had to find their way home, so they developed the ability to navigate. While hunting they couldn't talk too much because the animals would run away if they heard a sound. It must have been a quiet activity, talking only when necessary or to plan the strategy. These big differences in every day activities between our primitives help men and women in developing different skills in certain activities such as navigating and communicating. We usually hear from our female partner, "Are you listening to me?" and it's normal to see a woman asking for directions seeming lost. Men mostly always try to find the way on their own.

Male and Female Psychological Difference

Chih-wei Liao (Bird)

R/W 500

There are two kinds of humans according to gender in the world: Male and Female. Beside physiological structure, the psychological differences between male and female have always been popular arguments since a long time ago. What are obvious psychological differences between male and female? According to many scientific reports, the most powerful evidences are shopping behavior, the usage of the Internet, and the methods of finding their ways respectively.

In general, women more enjoy the feeling of shopping than men. "Male stress levels skyrocket when faced with noisy, crowded stores, choosing gifts and standing in check-out lines," David Lewis, a psychologist, said. Thus, men often think that shopping is a kind of load, because occasions of shopping always are under these conditions that make men stressful. On the contrary, according to Lewis, who is writing a book about consumer shopping habits aimed at retailers, "Women are usually more experienced in shopping." Therefore, women seem to be more comfortable with shopping.

Furthermore, due to the spreading of the Internet, it provides different ways of making friends and recreation from the past time. Gender influences the types of internet-applications. "In most cases, men always focus on interactive on-line games and Cybersex. However, women prefer anonymous communication with other people and hiding their appearance" (www.netaddiction.com). Traditionally, men present perfect to dominate everything. Thus, when men play interactive games, they feel to control characters on on-line games. In this condition, they gain the feeling of dominance. In addition, Cybersex is another area men seemed more attracted to than women. By chat areas that exist on-line, the development of virtual social interaction allows people to converse with another person about a variety of topics. Therefore, men can say things that they never do or say with their wives. However, women usually emphasize on anonymous communication with other people and hide their appearance. The reasons are that women just want to exchange

their feelings with other people, and do not want to be criticized about their body when they are face to face with men.

Finally, there is still an obvious difference between men and women. "Men are generally better than women at finding their way in unfamiliar settings," "women rely mostly on landmarks to navigate" ("Turn right at the drugstore, then left at the grocery"), "while men lean toward using geometry, as one would figure from a map" ("The museum should be over that way")-The Gainesville Sun, 03/21/200, p.6. In my personal opinion, I totally support this expression. Whenever I make appointments with female friends, they always ask me if there is any obvious landmark near destination. However, if I invite male friends to eat dinner in a restaurant together, they always say: "OK, give me the address of this restaurant." This difference mainly is reflected from using the different parts in their brains when men and women deal with space information. "According to Riepe's study, "Both sexed used the right hippocampus in negotiating the maze, but only men used the left hippocampus. Conversely, women used an outer part of the brain called the right prefrontal cortex, while men in the study didn't." Thus, this study might reflect differences that men and women handle information about the space around them.

The misunderstanding between men and women often is due to the fact that they don't know the differences each other exactly. Thus, the above-mentioned differences: shopping behavior, usage of Internet, and the methods of finding their way, between men and women may let people understand the thoughts of the opposite sex and promote harmonious relationship between male and female.

How Different We Are!

Hyoung Jun Park (Jimmy)

R/W 500

Have you experienced a quarrel with your girl/boyfriend or wife/husband? If the answer is a strong yes, you must be very familiar with these words, "You don't understand me!" no matter who cried out. Yes, both of you don't understand each other. That's not your faults but your genes' faults. "Men's and women's values are inherently different," said John Gray, author of the bestseller Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus. Among numerous differences, navigation, the way of mating and common interests are obviously discrete.

When my wife and I try to go to a new restaurant, I drive. When we visit a city for the first time, I drive. That's not because my driving skill is better than hers but because my navigation skill is better than hers. It might not be surprising to you that men are usually better at finding a new place on a map than women are because it's well known through ordinary experiences. In 2000, a German research team led by Dr. Matthias Riepe of the University of Ulm found out that men and women use different parts of the brain in navigation. They explain the reason why men are usually a better navigator with obvious evidence that men use more parts of the brain than women do. We don't know what those parts of the brain only men use do exactly; however, that tells us men and women

manage differently the same given information like address and direction. A long time ago, men went out far from home to hunt animals while women kept to their home. This fact must have helped men have better understandings in route.

Ask your partner the reason why she/he decided on you rather than other candidates. If she/he answers honestly, you might be shocked that you are chosen for such different reasons from yours. According to a survey in the ELI at the University of Florida, 2005, men prefer healthy, attractive women rather than smart ladies while women prefer intelligent, responsible men rather than good-looking guys. The respondents were asked to select the top 3 characteristics that they want in their spouse among health, understanding, intelligence, loyalty, etc. This survey shows how differently men and women select their mates. Excellent wives that men want are healthy enough to give as many births as possible and bring them up. Women expect husbands to be able to afford his family with sufficient food and to be back in order to earn food again and again.

Do you like to join the conversation in your partner's party? Although your answer is yes, that may be because you are close to your partner's friends but not because you really enjoy that conversation itself. The interests of men and women are so different that you often don't want to be involved your partner's conversation. The same survey that was performed in the ELI at the University of Florida shows that women's main topics are shopping, children and emotion; conversely, men's are sports, girls and social issues. The respondents are asked to give the most frequent three topics in the conversation. This distinction sometimes causes a small defect to expand to a crevasse. We can guess this difference also comes from the ancient time when men were responsible for all the exterior things to the home and women are responsible for all the interior things.

Men had chased food and come back for over hundreds of thousands of years. Women had reserved home and raised offspring for over hundreds of thousands of years. And society and male/female roles have abruptly changed in the past just a few hundreds of years. How could we break through this difference in this short period? After all, we should admit that men and women are totally unlike creatures in many aspects including navigation ability, ruler in mating and interests. Although you know she/he is different from you, you'll definitely continue colliding with your partner. But if you don't wish to lose your love, you should keep in mind that your partner aims in a different direction than you from the same standing position and try to bridge the gap through consistent conversation. It's our destiny given by the Nature to be harmonious.

Comments About Men And Women Differences

Maria del Carmen Curatolo
R/W 500

In a world where everything is different and relative, differences between men and women cannot be the exception.

Since men and women were created many questions have come to our minds and only few questions have been answered. Keep in mind that maybe most of the questions will not have a final answer. However, our life in common makes us to find the field where men and women, males and females can be similar. There are thousands of topics about men and women such as personalities, behaviors, styles, psychology, and more that we would like to explore. Between men and women everything is possible, since our differences put us on different sides of the net.

More than once women have asked themselves why men do not listen. The answer can be found in the anatomy field, "Men listen with half of brain" according to Dr. Joseph T. Lurito (Tanner, AP Medical Writer, 2003, p. 1-3). The study showed that when men listen only their left side of the brain works, while in women both sides of their brain work. The experiment does not conclude that "women are better listeners," it only says that the brain in men and women work differently.

How many times have you asked your husband to go shopping? What a waste of time, right? Women are in trouble here, because for men shopping is a stressful challenge. A newspaper article written by Mitch Stacy (The Gainesville Sun, September 16, 2000, p.3A) suggests that men cannot deal "with noisy, crowded stores, choosing gifts and standing in check-out lines." This is the result of an experiment performed by psychologist David Lewis, who enlisted some volunteers to go shopping and noted that men's heart and blood pressure changed while women did not have considerable variations. The explanation for these changes is that men do not like "domestic shopping" but they like to shop for things that are considered "toys for boys."

Sometimes we find some little differences, like the way how men and women get to certain places. Dr. Matthias Reipe of the University of Ulm in Germany found that both sexes use different ways to navigate. Men follow directions like in a map and women follow landmarks. This is a very interesting point because as a result of this dissimilarity to get somewhere can be a big deal. Another finding was that men do not like to ask for directions; unfortunately, the study does not mention anything else about this topic. From my personal experience, I can assume that men seem to feel weakness. I cannot see anything wrong asking for directions or landmarks. Nevertheless, for men this situation is embarrassing. Maybe it is related to the "macho" that they have inside.

"Intimacy and independency" are other conflictive differences that seems to be important between couples as Deborah Tannen mentions in her book You just don't understand. Her research on Americans showed that men make their own plans without discussing them with their partners. The study also said that men feel that if they ask for permission they lose their independence. For women it is completely normal checking with their partners before a final decision. This tiny difference can create conflicts in the relationship. Men do not consult things or issues that they think are not a big deal. Women do. They tend to be more conservative and discuss more about everything because the meaning of "couple" suggests working together and companionship.

Talking about love, things are not much different. There are some aptitudes that women do not understand, like men's ideas about love and romance. A survey followed through by John Gottman, professor of the University of Washington, showed that for men love is more important when they get old. Men think more about love later in life, because they think it is the time to take care of the family. Women think the opposite. They think that while they were young they gave everything for their family and husbands; when they are older they think that it is time to achieve their own goals and personal dreams. Women later in life want to do all that they couldn't do because family and husbands were first. This miscommunication implies serious problems. Men want to come back to the home and its intimacy and women want to get out of the house and discover the entire world.

Do not forget men's ideas about romance. Men do not think about flowers, sunsets, a romantic dinner, or a nice walk. They think about the best way to get what they want: Sex. There is a newspaper article written by Time Utton (November 14, 2003. news.com.au), which explains how men and women think differently about romance. For men romance "causes sexual thoughts" while for women romance "causes different feelings." Perhaps the difference about romance is related to thinking styles that men and women have. "Thinkers and Feelers" is the name of an article that mentions that men think more because they are rational, logic, impassionate; whereas women feel more because they are emotional, not radical, and do not need physical results.

The manner how men and women communicate with each other has been the subject of many surveys and the main topic of many books. There is a very famous book named Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, by John Gray, Ph.D. NY: Harper Collins, 1992. The writer tries to explain "differences in values, stresses, motivation, intimacy, emotions, conflict management, feelings, showing appreciation, and support systems as contributing factors in communication conflicts." John Gray also gives advice on how to avoid or face those differences in order to have a pleasant life as a couple.

Since our primitive times, men and women have been different because their environment and activities were different. For some unknown reason men decided to go out of the "cave" and produce goods for the family. On the other hand, women decided to stay inside of the "cave" and take care of the family making their home a comfortable place.

Goals, feelings, thoughts, points of view make differences in men and women's lives. To survive, communication and balance are the only ways to solve all uncomfortable situations that make our lives difficult. Communication does not mean just to talk about the issue; it also means to try to understand each other. Men and women even though both use different parts of their brains, should try to listen and not just hear each other. In the same way, men and women should try to think and feel at the same time. Between men and women cannot be more or less power because neither men nor women are superior. Balance is the equilibrium for all good formulas. Men and women are the best formula; they were created with only duty to be a complement. They both fix each

other. Men and women are like concave-convex with all their differences and similarities.

Differences Between Female and Male

Noemi Guindin

R/W 500

Are men and women different? Many people think that there are not differences between genders. The difference between men and women is the result of the society dominated by males. They are different anatomically but they are not different in other ways. "To say that men and women are the same is to deny physical reality," said Frank York in the article "Gender Differences Are Real". The scientific evidence shows that men and women are different in many ways. For example, men and women find their ways differently, use different parts of the brain for activities and have different emotional memory.

Many researchers studied sex difference in problem solving. Studies showed that men tend to perform better than women on certain spatial task. In tests that require manipulation of images or objects, men do better than women. Men show more accuracy in mathematical reasoning than women do. One study found that men completed a maze or labyrinth task more quickly than women did. In an experiment, in which brains were scanned to find difference between sexes, results showed that male and female use different parts of the brain for navigation. Both sexes used the right hippocampus but men used the left hippocampus too (Men, women find their ways differently). Another study was developed using a path on a counter tabletop map in order to measure route learning between males and females. The study results showed that women remember more of the landmarks, such as pictures of different types of building, than men did. Results showed that males and females have different ways to navigate possibly due to different part of brain use.

Another difference between males and females is the use of different parts of the brain to listen. A study conducted in the school of medicine at Indiana University shows that women use both sides of the brain, even though men use only the left side of the brain. The researchers scanned the brain using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) during a lecture. The results showed that women increased blood flow in both temporal lobes while men only in the left side (Men Listen With Half of Brain). This research showed that men and women use different parts of the brain for the same activity.

Because several studies showed that men and women use different parts of the brain to develop specific tasks, differences in verbal and emotional skills are referred to. Michael Gurian argued in his book "What Could He Be Thinking" many structural differences between men and women. Michael Gurian, a social philosopher, therapist and author of many books, said, "Men, because we tend to compartmentalize our communication into a smaller part of the brain, we tend to be better at getting right to the issue; the more female brain (will) gather a lot of material, gather a lot of information, feel a lot, hear a lot, sense a lot." He said "that males have more activity in the mechanical centers of the brain,

while females have more activity in centers of the brain dedicated to verbal communication and emotion." One of these arguments, which was related to verbal skills, was tested in several studies and showed that women have better performance on tests that requires the person to find words that begin with a specific letter or some other constraint. Another difference between men and women was the women's abilities for remembering patterns or things. This women's ability is maybe the reason for higher rates in clinical depression. Studies report that women have a prevalence rate for depression up to twice that of men (Bebbington, 1996; Nolen-Hoeksema, 1987). Studies suggest that it was caused by the difference in the emotional memory between men and women. Women had a good memory to remember highly emotional things better than men did. Women can't forget highly emotional events in their lives.

I conclude that differences between genders are not the result of the society. A lot of scientific evidence shows that men and women are different in many ways. Researchers are studying differences in order to explain clinical issues. A long history of studying will continue over the next decades to explain why certain abilities are developed on one side of the brain more than the other.

Is There a Difference Between Men and Women in the Access to Managerial Positions?

Evelio Hernandez
R/W 500

According to Fortune Magazine a recent survey revealed that 10% of the top 500 companies have women holding at least one-quarter of their corporate officer positions. This percentage rose from only 5% in 1995. According to this survey, women's overall share of management positions rarely exceeds 10 per cent. The higher the position, the more glaring the gender gap. In the largest and most powerful organizations the proportion of top positions going to women is generally 2 to 3 per cent. Why do women find it difficult to get access to managerial positions? The term "glass ceiling" was coined in the 1970s in the United States to describe the invisible artificial barriers for women in managerial positions; they can see the top, but never will reach it.

The debate on the intellectual differences between men and women has served historically to base the inequality between both and the discrimination of women. To deny the existence of differences between both sexes seems a thesis so difficult to maintain as the opposite, which commonly uses such differences to base the masculine superiority.

That answer has its origins in historical facts. In the past women did not show interest in school, because they were taught by their mothers to be homemakers (raise the children, cook, clean the house, take care of husband, etc). Throughout the years women have always been the ones who take care of the home, and the men provide the finances and the security.

Since the 1970's women have shown more interest in school and are now competing with men on almost every plane. They are leaving their homes to attend universities and develop their professional skills. In the fields of business administration, law, and medicine women have been in a majority for several years. But the question remains, if so many women are graduating from business school why don't they occupy the top positions in the labor market?

Today some of the most frequent obstacles that women confront include competition; men have more power and status than women do. In our society men are on the top of society and therefore must make efforts to secure their position. Other obstacle's for women are family obligations (getting married, having children, wanting to spend more time with family). This is an important issue that blocked women from getting access to high levels in the business organization. Top executives work more than 50 hours a week and many women are not prepared to sacrifice their families for their jobs this activity would be incompatible with CEO behavior in the field of work. A research developed in Sweden showed that almost all the male executives are married and have more children than the female executives. Female executives don't have equal opportunities and access of assistance than men because men always are involved in their jobs 100%. It is uncommon see men with part times jobs and doing the dirty work in house. This means that women have to trade with their husband on who would be in charge of the home and the children.

Many people feel that we are already living in a society where gender equality prevails, where competent women have the same career opportunities as men. Those who believe in this myth, however, are ignoring all the studies that show how women and men do not enjoy the same opportunities or conditions in working world. Women still have most of the responsibility for the home and family. More work in the home means less opportunity for work outside the home (workplace).

Do we want to see more women at the top? Americans have been building this path in many ways. For example in the field of business one of the most successful CEO's is Carly Fioriona who has run Hewlett Packard Corporation since 2000. In the political field Hilary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice represent for many Americans an icon of the power of women in the political arena and perhaps one of them will be the next president of the United States.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you students for sharing your writing with everyone. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays and paragraphs. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the HUB for arranging the gift certificates, to Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of Student Voices, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Karen Eberly, Chris Sabatelli, and Todd Allen for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

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