

Gender Talk Patterns

This assessment will help you compare your talking patterns to some of the gender communication ideas presented in contemporary self-help books. Think about your own communication patterns as you consider each item. Listening, speaking, and non verbal communication may vary a certain degree with different people in your relationships. Nevertheless, patterns can be identified for you by using this assessment. Consult the key after having finished the entire assessment.

- 1 T/F. I keep my feelings locked up inside
- 2 T/F. I rarely speak in a way that makes me vulnerable to a put down
- 3 T/F. I see my relationships in the context of competition not connection
- 4 T/F. It is a "dog eat dog" world out there
- 5 T/F. You've got to work hard not to be put down
- 6 T/F. I hate asking for directions when I'm lost
- 7 T/F. I know where I belong in the overall ranking at work
- 8 T/F. I don't really know what to say in a group
- 9 T/F. I like to know the news so that I can sound informed about things
- 10 T/F. I need serious down time to recoup each day
- 11 T/F. I am like a warrior of sorts in my everyday life
- 12 T/F. Women talk dramatically different from men
- 13 T/F. I use my hands when I talk for making gestures
- 14 T/F. Men talk differently because their brains work differently from the "woman brain"
- 15 T/F. I like to offer advice so I can fix things for others
- 16 T/F. I like to talk a lot
- 17 T/F. I rarely speak in a way that makes me stand out among my friends
- 18 T/F. I see my relationships in the context of connection not competition
- 19 T/F. It's a world of relationships out there
- 20 T/F. You've got to work hard not to be socially isolated or disconnected from friends
- 21 T/F. It's easy for me to ask for directions
- 22 T/F. I speak in a way that makes me equal to others (not superior) in my relationships
- 23 T/F. I keep track of my relationships to ensure that they are going well
- 24 T/F. I like to hear another's problems and offer similar stories that happened to me
- 25 T/F. It's cool when you know someone well enough that they know what you are thinking
- 26 T/F. In general, women keep relationships going
- 27 T/F. Men talk dramatically different from women
- 28 T/F. You have to constantly be on guard because men touch you so much
- 29 T/F. I can know how a man feels by simply looking at his facial expressions & body position
- 30 T/F. I like to offer solutions that worked for me or my friend, it shows that I care

Key: Questions 1-15 are True=T. These 15 questions represent the typical male patterns of communicating (at least as portrayed in current self-help literature. **Questions 16-30 are True=T.** These next 15 questions represent the typical female patterns of communicating. How many true answers did you have in each of these sections: **1-15** ___ **16-30** ___ ? If you marked true in both of these sections then you are probably more like the average person-that is using a variety of communication patterns which overlap the stereotypes of "men talk & women talk." The underlying value of self-help books on how men and women talk differently is not that all men talk one way and all women another. Rather, the value is found in learning patterns of how people talk in general, and learning to see those patterns in the men and women you communicate with. They also help us to see that our significant others may simply be different in their communication, as opposed to mean, stubborn, or unsupportive. How does this apply in your relationships? Have someone you interact with regularly take the Partner, Family Member, Friend Version of this assessment then talk about it after you both have finished.

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Partner, Family Member, Friend Version

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Gender/Androgyny Role Attitude Assessment

Please answer T=True or F=False on each of the items below. If you are married or otherwise committed then have your partner take the assessment. Compare and discuss only after each has completed it. If you are single have your parents or close friend take the assessment and discuss it.

1. T/F Women with school or preschool aged children should stay home if at all possible
2. T/F Cleaning dishes, laundry, cooking, etc... are really a woman's responsibility
3. T/F Men should be the only breadwinners in the home
4. T/F Women are less capable of making important decisions than are men
5. T/F Women are naturally dependent on men
6. T/F When a woman pursues a career, it's because she has problems with relationships
7. T/F When a woman flatters a man to get what she wants, it's O.K.
8. T/F It would be difficult for me to work for a woman
9. T/F You can tell a great deal about a woman by her appearance and sex appeal
10. T/F Most women admire the qualities of men and would like to be more like them
11. T/F Husbands should really make all the tough decisions in the home
12. T/F Women are not as dependable in terms of job stability and commitment
13. T/F Women should pursue an education that would directly benefit their homemaking role
14. T/F Women are simply not as rational/logical as men
15. T/F Women are more social than men
16. T/F If she were qualified, I'd vote for a woman for president of the U.S.
17. T/F Lawmakers should support gender equality issues in the legislation they pass
18. T/F Women are no more emotional than men tend to be
19. T/F Careers provide women with opportunities for self-fulfillment and growth
20. T/F Sexuality is enjoyed just as much by women as men
21. T/F Men are as capable of loving children as much as women
22. T/F Overall, genetics have little to do with the way men and women behave
23. T/F Men and women are equally as capable of dominance in society
24. T/F Pay should be based on performance, not gender
25. T/F Men tend to welcome their wife's earnings in today's tough market
26. T/F Neither men nor women are superior to one another
27. T/F Both fathers and mothers are essential to the child's upbringing
28. T/F The way men and women communicate depends more on their individuality than gender
29. T/F Couples should negotiate housework, yard work, and child care duties
30. T/F The birth of the child is cause enough to celebrate, not its sex

Scoring your gender role attitudes:

Give yourself 1 point for each True answer in questions 1-15 _____

Give yourself 1 point for each False answer in questions 16-30 _____ Total Score=

The closer your score is to 30 points the more traditional your attitudes tend to be.

Couples and family members enhance the quality of their relationships as they sit down and discuss their gender values and negotiate on those issues which are most significant to those involved. Do these findings accurately reflect you, your expectations, and life experience? Why or Why not?

Personal Men's Issues Assessment

Answer yes or no to all of the events below that actually have or currently are occurring to you. Be as accurate as possible. Females can interview a close male friend or family member. Do not read the answer key until you have taken the assessment.

YES	EVENTS	NO
	I was labeled a trouble maker in public school	
	I had learning challenges in public school	
	I was not athletic in public school	
	I never had a good male role model in my early years	
	I feel that I never measure up	
	I feel like a mechanical cog in the big economic machinery	
	I suffer because of being a male in today's work place	
	My father is not proud of me	
	My father is out of touch with issues in my life	
	I feel an emotional gap between my father and myself	
	I long to be more intimate with my partner	
	I was not adequately socialized to nurture children	
	I feel emotionally detached from most people	
	I do things at work which I regret, but must do to keep the job	
	I've thought about suicide before	
	I lost custody of my children in a divorce or separation	
	I have overheard male bashing comments	
	I have been the direct victim of male bashing	
	I have suffered discrimination as a male	
	I fear that I will be accused of sexual crimes	

Add up all the "Yes" answers. This assessment is designed to measure the intensity of hardship males experience in a post-industrial society. 0=no hardship, 20=extreme hardship. Did these findings surprise you? Discuss them with someone close to you. You can learn more about Men's Issues on the Internet or in the library.

Softening Patriarchal or Matriarchal Heads of Families

Often a patriarchal father can lead with compassion, love, and concern for each of the family members (including spouse) without being dictatorial. The mother can also lead the family with firmness and love without a power struggle between the spouse and children.

List ways that the patriarchal father can be the head of the home and still show love and compassion without taking away each individual family member's autonomy:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

List ways and circumstances that the mother can be the head of the family and lead in love without power struggles:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How does the balance of power change if newlyweds live with their parents after marriage?
Explain:

When the wife and husband both work, what type of shift in power occurs between the spouses?
Explain:

Television Messages about Gender Roles

Many studies have established the fact that television viewing shapes our attitudes and outlook on life. Most people in the U.S. are exposed to numerous TV messages while watching 3-4 hours of television per day (that's 9.1 years equivalent by age 65). This project is designed to facilitate an understanding of the gender role messages you get from various television shows. Watch two separate shows from 7-11:00PM and use this table to analyze their presentation of male and female roles.

Factors to Consider	Title of First Show:	Title of Second Show:
Are the central characters male, female, or both?		
Which characters are shown as being in control or having the most power?		
Are the male characters portrayed as being competent in their social roles? How can you tell?		
Are the female characters portrayed as being independent and capable in their roles? How can you tell?		
If the show is set in the context of a central family, are the male and female characters realistically portrayed? If not, why?		
List three words which basically describe the male characters in this show.		
List three words which basically describe the female characters.		
When comparing yourself to the main character/s of the same sex, what is the difference (if any)? Would you be friends in real life?		
Are any of the male or female characters exploited sexually, financially, or socially? If so, how?		
Is violence used to coerce male or female characters?		
Overall, are male or female characters more successful on the show? Why?		