



MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT

I. BEFORE YOU READ

You are going to read an article about the differences between men and women. Before you read the text, match the words in A with the definitions in B. Check your answers with a dictionary.

A

barrage

exasperated

stunned

beliefs

mumbled

restrooms

remote controls

invade

insensitive

turn-off

behaviour

buddies

B

devices which allow you to operate a television etc., from a distance

shocked or very surprised

enter a country or town using military force

large number of something, particularly comments or questions

place where one road leads away from another

annoyed and frustrated

friends (informal)

way a person acts

feelings you have that something is true

rooms with a toilet in a public place

spoke in a quiet, unclear way

not caring how other people feel



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2. NOW READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTION.

Men and Women are Different

It was a sunny afternoon as Bob and Sue set out with their three teenage daughters on a lazy Sunday drive down to the beach. Bob was at the wheel and Sue sat beside him, turning towards the back every few minutes to join in the animated series of conversations going on between their daughters. To Bob, it sounded as if they were all talking at once, creating an incessant barrage of noise that just didn't make any sense at all. Eventually, he'd had enough.

"Can you lot please shut up!" he yelled.

There was a stunned silence.

"Why?" asked Sue, eventually.

"Because I'm trying to drive!" he replied, exasperated.

The women looked at each other in complete confusion.

"Trying to drive?" they mumbled to each other.

They could not see any connection between their conversation and his ability to drive. He couldn't understand why they were all speaking simultaneously, sometimes on different subjects, with none of them appearing to listen.

Why couldn't they just keep quiet and let him concentrate on driving? Their talking had already caused him to miss the last turn-off on the highway.

The fundamental problem here is simple: men and women are different. Not better or worse – but different.

Just about the only thing they have in common is that they belong to the same species. They live in different worlds, with different values and according to quite different sets of rules. Everyone knows this, but very few people, particularly men, want to admit it. The truth, however, is most definitely out there. Look at the evidence. Around 50% of marriages end in divorce in Western countries and most serious relationships stop short of becoming long-term. Men and women of every culture constantly argue over their partners' opinions, behaviour, attitudes and beliefs.



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When a man goes to a rest-room, he usually goes for one reason and one reason only. Women use restrooms as social lounges and therapy rooms. Women who go to a restroom as strangers can come out best friends and lifelong buddies. Everyone would be instantly suspicious of the man, however, who calls out, “Hey Frank, I’m going to the toilet – do you want to come with me?”

Men dominate TV remote controls and flick through the channels; women don’t mind watching the commercials. Under pressure, men drink alcohol and invade other countries; women eat chocolate and go shopping.

Women criticise men for being insensitive, uncaring, not listening, not being warm and compassionate, not talking, not giving enough love, not being committed to relationships, and leaving the toilet seat up.

Men criticise women about their driving, for not being able to read street plans, for turning maps upside down, for their lack of a sense of direction, for talking too much without getting to the point, and for leaving the toilet seat down. Men can never seem to find things but their CDs are in alphabetical order. Women can always find the missing set of car keys, but rarely the most direct route to their destination. Men think they’re the most sensible sex. Women *know* they are.

Adapted from *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps* by Allan and Barbara Pease (Orion)

Give four examples of how, according to the author, men and women are different .

Men

Women

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



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3. READ THE TEXT AGAIN.

Decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
Bob and Sue's daughters are all over the age of twelve.	___	___
Bob blamed his wife and children for missing the highway exit.	___	___
According to the author, men in particular acknowledge the differences between the sexes.	___	___
Approximately half of all marriages in the western world are successful.	___	___
Men and women deal with stress in similar ways.	___	___
Women criticise men for their emotional weaknesses.	___	___
Men think women are better at reading maps.	___	___
Men are better at finding lost objects.	___	___



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4. STUDY THE PHRASES BELOW.

Find phrases in the text which mean the same as the following:

Example: .. left a place to begin a journey .. set out

.. wasn't easy to understand

.. the only idea or interest which is the same

.. unwilling to work hard to make partnerships succeed

.. saying quickly what is important

.. statements saying what must and mustn't be done

.. change quickly from one TV channel to another

.. are happy to watch the advertisements

.. the ability to know which way to go..



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5. EXPRESSION.

The author states, '*..the only thing they (men and women) have in common is that they belong to the same species.*'

Do you agree with this statement? In what ways do you believe that men and women are different? In what ways are they similar?

Do you believe that sexual equality exists in your field or industry? Give reasons for your opinions.