

## **Gender Communications Quiz**

How much do you know about how men and women communicate? If you think a statement is an accurate description of communication patterns, mark it true. If you think it's not, mark it false.

1. Men talk more than women.
2. Men are more likely to interrupt women than to interrupt other men.
3. There are approximately ten times as many sexual terms for males as for females in the English language.
4. During conversations, women spend more time gazing at their partner than men do.
5. Nonverbal messages carry more weight than verbal messages.
6. Female managers communicate with more emotional openness and drama than male managers.
7. Not only do men control the content of conversations but also they work harder in keeping conversations going.
8. When people hear generic words such as "mankind" and "he," they respond inclusively, indicating that the terms apply to both sexes.
9. Women are more likely to touch others than men are.
10. In classroom communications, male students receive more reprimands and criticism than female students.
11. Women are more likely than men to disclose information on intimate personal concerns.
12. Female speakers are more animated in their style than are males.
13. Women use less personal space than men.
14. When a male speaks, he is listened to more carefully than a female speaker, even when she makes the identical presentation.
15. In general, women speak in a more tentative style than do men.
16. Women are more likely to answer questions that are not addressed to them.
17. There is widespread sex segregation in schools, and it hinders effective classroom communization.
18. Female managers are seen by both male and female subordinates as better communicators than male managers.
19. In classroom communications, teachers are more likely to give verbal praise to female than to male students.
20. In general, men smile more often than women.

ANSWERS

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- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True  | 11. True  |
| 2. True  | 12. True  |
| 3. False | 13. True  |
| 4. True  | 14. True  |
| 5. True  | 15. True  |
| 6. False | 16. False |
| 7. False | 17. True  |
| 8. False | 18. True  |
| 9. False | 19. False |
| 10. True | 20. False |

**Scoring**

**18 to 20 Correct.** Professor Henry Higgins has nothing on you. You are very perceptive about human communications and subtle sex differences and similarities. For you, perhaps the most important question is: Do you act on what you know? Are you able to transform your knowledge into behavior that will enhance communications for yourself and for those around you?

**16 to 17 Correct.** You're not ready to move into the professor's seat, but you can move to the head of the class. You know a good deal about communications and the gender gap. Continue to watch closely, read about the topic, trust your instincts, and act on your knowledge.

**13 to 15 Correct.** Like most people, you've picked up some information about how people communicate—but you're missing a lot, too. The next time you're in a social situation, step out of the communications flow and watch people closely. Listen to more than words. Watch who talks, how they speak, and how much. Observe those who don't talk at all; silence also carries a message. Look at people's facial expressions, their gestures, and how they move about in the space around them. As you know, nonverbal messages can tell you a lot about the conversational gender gap, about power, about who has it and who doesn't.

**Fewer than 13 Correct.** You've missed more than your share of these questions. You also may be missing important verbal and nonverbal cues about your own behavior and how to communicate effectively. Reread this quiz more carefully. Stop, look, and listen when you're with a group of people. Analyze the flow of communication. Remember, you may miss your personal and professional goal if you also miss key verbal and nonverbal cues about conversational power, politics and the gender gap.