

Language and Gender: Do men and women really speak differently?

You will undertake a small experiment to analyse whether women and men speak differently.

1. You are going to need between 4-8 subjects of different genders to interview. This can be done via zoom/ houseparty or face to face – relatives, siblings, parents and friends work perfectly! If you're really, really stuck for people to interview, email Miss Flanagan and we can work something out.
2. Show them the 5 images on the powerpoint and ask them the two questions: Describe what you can see? How does it make you feel? Use your phone to record their responses and transcribe these on the document on page 2. It doesn't matter what they say or how weird it is, just write it down or record it to analyse later.
3. Once you've transcribed your subjects' responses, analyse them using the bullet points below to guide you:
 - Examine the length of the response given. Are the women's responses longer than the men's?
 - Do women use more adjectives than men? Some theorists suggest that men are more direct, whereas women have a more extensive vocab. Is this evident in what you've recorded?
 - Is there any evidence to show that one gender uses more politeness than the other? (e.g. Thanks, I'm sorry...)
 - Is there any evidence which suggests one gender uses more emotional language than the other, especially when asked to describe their feelings? Do women appear to find it easier to talk about their feelings than men?
 - Do your subjects use correct grammar all the time or do they use non-standard English? Is there a gendered pattern here?
 - Do your subjects use interrogatives (questions) in their responses? Does one gender use these more than the other?
 - Do any of your subjects attempt to be funny, sarcastic or comical? Is there a pattern here?
 - Is there anything else beyond the gender of the person that may have influenced their use of language – such as their age, whether they have children, whether they have travelled?
4. Use your data and your findings from the above prompts to write a 750 word response to the question: Do women and men speak differently? It's OK to use first person and it's OK to reach any type of conclusion – **there is no right answer** to this question, this is an exercise of exploration and discovery.

Name and gender:



Describe what you see:

How does it make you feel?:



Describe what you see:

How does it make you feel?:



Describe what you see:

How does it make you feel?:



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