

Stereotypes – or are they?

Men talk just as much as women -can it really be true?

Research by psychologists at the University of Arizona has shown that the stereotype that women talk more than men may not be true. In the study, hundreds of university students were fitted with recorders and the total number of words they used during the day was then counted.

The results, published in the New Scientist, showed that women speak about 16000 words a day and men speak only slightly fewer. In fact, the four most talkative people in the study were all men.

Professor Matthias Mehl, who was in charge of the research, said that he and his colleagues had expected to find that women were more talkative.

A GOSSIP WITH THE GIRLS? JUST PICK ANY ONE OF FORTY SUBJECTS

Women are experts at gossiping – and they often talk about trivial things, or at least that's what men have always thought. However according to research carried out by Professor Petra Boynton, a psychologist at University College London, when women talk to women their conversations are not trivial at all, and cover many more topics (up to 40) than when men talk to other men. Women's conversations range from health to their houses, from politics to fashion, from films to family, from education to relationship problems. Almost everything, in fact, except football. Men tend to talk about fewer subjects, the most popular being work, sport, jokes, cars, and women.

However, they had been sceptical of the common belief that women use three times as many words as men. This idea became popular after the publication of a book called *The Female Brain* (2006) whose author, Louann Brizendine, claimed that 'a woman uses about 20000 words per day, whereas a man uses about 7000.' Professor Nehl accepts that many people will find the results difficult to believe. However, he thinks that this research is important because the stereotype, that women talk too much and men keep quiet, is bad not only for women but also for men. 'It says that to be a good male, it's better not to talk – that silence is golden.' Professor Boynton interviewed over 1000 women for her study. She also found that women move quickly from one subject to another in conversation, whereas men usually stick to one subject for longer periods of time.

Professor Boynton also says that men and women chat for different reasons. In social situations women use conversation to solve problems and reduce stress, while men chat with each other to have a laugh or to swap opinions.

Stereotype(noun): a fixed idea about a particular type of person or thing, which is often not true in reality.

Stereotype(verb): In advertisements, women are often stereotyped as housewives.

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What was the stereotype that the researchers wanted to investigate?
2. Where was the research done?
3. How was the research done?
4. What did the research show?

Now read the article again and look at the underlined words and phrases, which are commonly used in articles about research. Match them with definitions 1-10.

1. _____ *adverb* really
2. _____ *verb* make less
3. _____ usually do it
4. _____ *adverb* a little bit
5. _____ linking word used to connect or contrast two facts
6. _____ *verb* say that sth is true
7. _____ as said or shown by sb
8. _____ *verb* include several different things in addition to the ones mentioned
9. _____ *adverb* nearly
10. _____ not completely believed, doubted

Articles: a/ an, the, no article

a/ an

I saw an old man with a dog.
It's a nice house. She's a lawyer.
What an awful day!
I have classes three times a week.

We use a/an with singular countable nouns:

1. the first time you mention a thing/ person.
2. when you say what something is or what somebody does.
3. in exclamations with What!
4. in expressions of frequency.

the

-I saw an old man with a dog.
The dog was barking.
-My father opened the door.
The children are at school.
-The moon goes round the Earth.
-I'm going to the cinema tonight.
-It's the best restaurant in town.

We use the:

1. when we talk about something we've already mentioned.
2. when it's clear what you're referring to.
3. when there's only one of something.
4. with places in a town, e.g. cinema and theatre.
5. with superlatives.

no article

-Women usually talk more than men.
Love is more important than money.
-She's not at home today.
I get back from work at 5:30.
-I never have breakfast.
-See you next Friday.

We don't use an article:

1. when we are speaking in general(with plural and uncountable nouns).
Compare: I love flowers.(= flowers in general)
I love the flowers in my garden.(=the specific flowers in my garden).
2. with some nouns, (e.g. home, work, school, church) after at/to/ from.
3. before meals, days, and months.
4. before next/ last + day, week, etc.

Circle the correct answer.

1. Jess is nurse / a nurse in a hospital. A hospital/ The hospital is a long way from her house.
2. What a horrible day/ horrible day! We'll have to eat our picnic in the car/ a car.
3. My wife likes love stories / the love stories, but I prefer the war films / war films.
4. We go to theatre/ the theatre about once a month/ once the month.
5. I'm having dinner/ the dinner with some friends the next Friday/ next Friday.
6. My boyfriend is chef/ a chef. I think he's the best cook/ best cook in the world.
7. I'm not sure if I closed the windows/ windows before I left the home/ home this morning.
8. In general, I like dogs/ the dogs, but I don't like dogs/ the dogs that live next door to me.
9. I got to the school/ school late every day the last week/ last week.
10. I think happiness/ the happiness is more important than success/ the success.

Complete with a/ an, the, or – (= no article).

1. **A** How often do you go to ___ gym?
B About three times ___ week. But I never go on ___ Fridays.
2. **A** What times does ___ train leave?
B In ten minutes. Can you give me ___ lift to ___ station?
3. **A** what ___ lovely dress!
B Thanks. I bought it in ___ sales ___ last month.
4. **A** What's ___ most interesting place to visit in your town?
B Probably ___ castle. It's ___ oldest building in town.
5. **A** What shall we do ___ next weekend?
B Let's invite some friends for ___ lunch. We could eat outside in ___ garden.
6. **A** Do you like ___ dogs?
B Not really, I prefer ___ cats. I think they're ___ best pets.
7. **A** Is your mum ___ housewife?
B No, she's ___ teacher. She's always tired when she finishes ___ work.
8. **A** Have you ever had ___ problem in your relationship?
B Yes, but we got over ___ problem and we got married ___ last year.
9. **A** When is ___ meeting?
B They've changed ___ date. It's ___ next Tuesday now.

Dependent Prepositions

1. After verbs

Complete the following sentences with a word from the list.

about – at – between – for – in – of – on – to – with

1. He apologized ___ the policeman ___ driving fast.
2. We're arriving ___ Milan on Sunday.
3. We're arriving ___ Malpensa airport at 3:45.
4. Who does this book belong ___?
5. I never argue ___ my husband ___ money.
6. Could you ask the waiter ___ the bill?
7. Do you believe ___ ghosts?
8. I can't choose ___ these two bags.
9. We might go out. It depends ___ the weather.
10. I dreamt ___ my childhood last night.
11. Don't laugh ___ me! I'm doing my best!
12. I'm really looking forward ___ the party.
13. If I pay ___ the meal, can you get the drinks?
14. This music reminds me ___ our honeymoon in Italy.
15. I don't spend a lot of money ___ clothes.

2. After adjectives

Complete the following sentences with a word from the list.

about – at – for – from – in – of – on – to – with

1. My brother is afraid ___ bats.
2. She's really angry ___ her boyfriend ___ last night.
3. I've never been good ___ sport.
4. Eat your vegetables. They are good ___ you.
5. I'm very close ___ my elder sister.
6. This exercise isn't very different ___ the last one.
7. We're really excited ___ going to Brazil.
8. I'm fed up ___ listening to you complaining.
9. Krakow is famous ___ its main square.
10. My sister is very interested ___ astrology.
11. I'm very fond ___ my little nephew. He's adorable.
12. She's very keen ___ cycling. She does about 50 kilometres every weekend.
13. I don't like people who aren't kind ___ animals.
14. She used to be married ___ a pop star.
15. I'm really pleased ___ my new motorbike.
16. My dad was very proud ___ learning to ski.
17. Why are you always rude ___ waiters and shop assistants?
18. Rachel is worried ___ losing her job.
19. I'm tired ___ walking. Let's stop and have a rest.

*Gerunds after prepositions

Remember that after a preposition we use a verb in the gerund (+ -ing)

We're really excited about going to Brazil.

Present perfect + for/ since, present perfect continuous

Present perfect + for / since

- They've known each other for ten years.
- Julia has had that bag since she was at university.
- A** How long have you worked here?
- B** Since 1996.
- A** How long has your brother had his motorbike?
- B** For about a year.
- We use the present perfect + for or since with non-action verbs (e.g. like, have, know, etc.) to talk about something which started in the past and is still true now.
- We use How long ...? + present perfect to ask about an unfinished period of time (from the past until now).
- We use for + a period of time, e.g. for two weeks, or since + a period of time, e.g. since 1990.
- Don't use the present simple with since/ for.

Present perfect continuous: have/ has been+ verb+ -ing

- How long have you been learning English?
- Nick has been working here since April.
- They've been going out together for about three years.
- Your eyes are red. Have you been crying?
- No, I've been cutting onions.
- We use the present perfect continuous with for and since with action verbs (e.g. learn, work, go, etc.) to talk about actions which started in the past and are still true now. Don't use the present continuous with for/ since.
- We can also use the present perfect continuous for continuous or repeated actions which have been happening very recently. The actions have usually just finished.

Work and live

Work and live are often used in either present perfect simple or present perfect continuous with the same meaning.

I've lived here since 1980.

I've been living here since 1980.

Correct the mistakes.

1. We've had our new flat since six months.
2. Hi Jackie! How are you? I don't see you for ages!
3. How long are knowing your husband?
4. Emily has been a volunteer for ten years ago.
5. Paul doesn't eat anything since yesterday because he's ill.
6. It hasn't rained since two months.
7. How long has your parents been married?
8. They're having their dog since they got married.
9. I haven't had any emails from my brother for last Christmas.
10. My grandmother lives in the same house all her life.

Make sentences with the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous (and for/ since if necessary). Use the present perfect continuous if possible.

1. *we/know each other/ we were children*

2. *The children/ play computer games/ two hours*

3. *Your sister / have that hairstyle/ a long time ?*

4. *I/ love her / the first day we met*

5. *my internet connection/ not work/ yesterday*

6. *how long/ you / wait?*

7. *I/ be a teacher/ three years*

8. *It/ snow / five o'clock this morning*

9. *Sam/ not study enough / recently*

10. *You/ live in London/ a long time?*