

## GENDER COMMUNICATION QUIZ

### How much do you know about how men & women communicate with one another?

The 20 items in this questionnaire are based on research conducted in classrooms, private homes, businesses, offices, hospitals--the places where people commonly work and socialize. If you think a statement is generally an accurate description of female and male communication patterns, mark it true. If you think it's not an accurate description, mark it false.

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

## Answers to Gender Communication Quiz

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 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**

You are very perceptive about human communication 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 are 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 close, read about the topic, trust your instincts, and act on your knowledge.

#### **13 to 15 Correct**

Like most people, you have picked up some information about how people communicate—but you are missing a lot too. The next time you are in a social situation, step out of the communication flow and watch people closely. Listen to more than words. Watch who talks and how they speak, and how much. Observe those who do not 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, and who has it and who doesn't.

#### **Fewer than 13 Correct**

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

---

From research materials supplied by The Women's Center, NC State University.