



Gender differences discussion

Discuss the following questions in the order below, skipping any you find too difficult.

- Who has a better life in your country, women or men?
- How much of a glass ceiling is there in your country? What are the reasons for it, and could it change?
- How else are men and women different in your country? How have things changed?
- How do those things compare to other countries?
- Are gender differences mainly innate (= genetic) or due to upbringing, do you think? Which differences might be innate?
- What things most need to be changed in your country to make the sexes more equal?
- What do you think about efforts to reduce sexism by changing the language that we use?
- Choose one gender difference on the next page and say how acceptable or unacceptable you think it is. Your partner will then give their opinion.



Possible gender differences

- Ambitions for a child/ Pressure on a child to succeed
- Amount of childcare in a family
- Amount of housework in a family
- Being a gentleman (opening doors, carrying luggage etc)
- Being a priest/ High level positions in a religion
- Being expected to wear a skirt or tie at school or at work
- Changing family name after marriage
- Combat troops
- Compulsory military service
- Control of household finances
- Controlling household finances
- Custody of the children after a divorce
- Decision making in a family
- Disapproval if someone has an affair
- Disapproval if someone has pre-marital sex
- Disapproval when someone uses slang, e.g. swearing
- Discounts
- Entry to certain places, e.g. private clubs or gyms
- Expectations about being the main breadwinner
- Expectations about when you will get married
- How you are expected to dress in public
- How you dress babies, e.g. colours of baby clothes
- Inheritance
- Jobs that you expect kids to do about the house
- Language, e.g. use of polite language
- Looking after elderly parents/ in-laws
- Making important family decisions
- Marriage vows
- Maternity leave/ Paternity leave
- Paying in restaurants and bars
- Pressure to drink
- Questions about plans to start a family
- Recruitment for dangerous jobs
- Recruitment for manual labour
- Recruitment for work with small children
- Rules about jewellery, e.g. banning only men from wearing earrings
- Spending on a child's education
- Sports you do at school
- Subjects studied, e.g. Home Economics and woodwork
- Taking parents' names
- The age at which teenagers are allowed to do things, e.g. stay out late or travel abroad
- Toys you buy young kids
- Uniforms/ Working clothes
- What time children are expected to be home
- Who becomes monarch next