



Gender Issues

Gender Communications Quotient (GCQ) Quiz

How much do you know about how men and women communicate with one another? The twenty 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. Then check your score to determine your communications quotient.

- | | TRUE | or | FALSE |
|---|-------|----|-------|
| 1. Men talk more than women. | _____ | | _____ |
| 2. Men are more likely to interrupt women than they are 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. Men not only control the content of conversations, they also work harder in keeping conversations going. | _____ | | _____ |
| 8. When people hear general 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 conversational style than are male speakers. | _____ | | _____ |
| 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 an 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 communication. | _____ | | _____ |
| 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 females than to male students. | _____ | | _____ |
| 20. In general, men smile more often than women. | _____ | | _____ |



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What's Your Gender Communications Quotient (GCQ)? Workshop Outline

Introduction (5 minutes)

Welcome speaker and have her/him introduce her/himself. If the speaker has a prepared program, use the GCQ as a complementary exercise. If the speaker does not have a prepared program, use the GCQ as the main discussion tool.

Distribute the GCQ (5 minutes)

Individuals complete the questionnaire on their own. You may also choose to pair a male and female participant to answer the questionnaire together.

Provide Answers to the GCQ (20 minutes)

Answers are found later in this guide.

What Women Wish Men Knew About Them/What Men Wish Women Knew About Them (20 minutes)

In two groups, have the men develop a list of things they wish women knew about them and have the women develop a list of things they wish men knew about them. The purpose of this activity is to discuss and dispel stereotypes of the opposite sex. Record comments on flip chart paper. Ask one person from each group to share their list and answer any questions that may arise.

Answers to Gender Communications Quotient Quiz

1. **True.** Despite the stereotype, the research is consistent and clear. In classrooms, in offices, in group discussion, in two-person conversations, men talk more than their fair share of the time.
2. **True.** When women talk with other women, interruptions are evenly distributed. When men talk with other men, interruptions are evenly distributed. However, when men and women talk with one another, almost all interruptions are by male speakers.
3. **False.** According to one research study 22 sexual terms were identified as describing men while 220 sexual terms applied to women.
4. **True.** Many studies- with subjects ranging from infants to the elderly- have shown that women are more likely than men to gaze at their partner. One reason may be that men talk more and women listen more.
5. **True.** Nonverbal messages carry over four times the weight of verbal messages. Other research shows that in most two-person conversations nonverbal messages convey more than 65 percent of the meaning.
6. **False.** Research conducted at a mid-west hospital and in the clerical departments and production lines of manufacturing firms show that both female and male managers score higher than the general population in communicating friendliness and approval to subordinates. Further, women managers are no more emotionally open or dramatic than their male counterparts.
7. **False.** While men do exert power and authority in controlling the course of conversations, women exert more effort in maintaining communication.
8. **False.** Terms such as "mankind," "man" and "he" are supposed to be generic and are presumed to include both men and women. Research shows that this isn't really the case. People are more literal in their thinking.



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Answers to Gender Communications Quotient Quiz (continued)

9. **False.** In fact, just the opposite is true. Throughout their lives, women are more likely to be touched than men. The touching of women by men- guiding them through the door, assisting them with coats, helping them into cars- happens so frequently that it goes virtually unnoticed.
10. **True.** The research is very consistent on this issue. From preschool through high school, male students are more likely than female students to be reprimanded for misbehavior. Some studies say they are eight to ten times as likely to be scolded.
11. **True.** There is some inconsistency in the research here, but most studies show that women are more likely to reveal personal information about themselves.
12. **True.** Female speakers display more animated behavior including amount and intensity of eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, and body movement. Further, they are more likely to use a wider range of pitch and more variable intonations than male speakers.
13. **True.** Women's space is far more likely to be intruded on by others. Women are approached more closely than men by both women and men. When women and men approach each other on the street, women are more likely to walk around men or move out of their way.
14. **True.** Both female and male members of audiences pay more attention to male speakers than female speakers. Audience members recall more information from presentations given by males.
15. **True.** According to linguist Robin Lakoff, 'women's language' is characterized by certain patterns:
 - Making statements that end in questioning intonation or putting tag questions at the end of declarative sentences (This is a good movie, isn't it?)
 - Using qualifiers such as 'kind of' or 'I guess'
 - Excessively polite speech
 - Use of "empty adjectives" (divine or lovely) and use of "so" with adjectives (so thoughtful)
16. **False.** Men manage to capture more than their fair share of talk time. Sometimes women actually help men gain this advantage because they are more likely to ask questions while men are more likely to give answers.
17. **True.** When people hear the word "segregation," they usually think about racial discrimination. Sex segregation may happen in more subtle ways, but it is widespread.
18. **True.** Despite the stereotypes, when employees work for a female supervisor, they vote their approval. Female managers are seen as giving more attention to subordinates, as more open to new ideas, and as more supportive of worker effort than male managers.
19. **False.** Although girls get better grades than boys, they receive less verbal praise from teachers. When girls do get praise from teachers, it is likely to be for neatness and appearance.
20. **False.** Women are far more likely to smile than men. They do this in many different social situations even though they are not necessarily happy or amused.