

Some Differences between Men and Women

Notes to share out loud in class

Biological Differences:

1. The differences between male and female reproductive systems.
2. Women can get pregnant, give birth, etc. Men cannot.
3. Etc.

***Important note: There are always exceptions to the general rule.**

Brain Differences

1. Studies have shown that male brains have more connections within hemispheres (front to back), whereas female brains are more connected between hemispheres (left to right).
 - a. This means that men are usually able to separate information, stimulus, emotions, relationships, etc. into separate compartments in their brains, while women tend to link everything together.
 - i. There is a book called *Men are like Waffles, Women are like Spaghetti*. Men tend to put related thoughts and information into specific waffle divots of their minds. Women tend to mix related thoughts and information like spaghetti noodles get all mixed together.
2. Women detect colors better than men do: Women can detect subtle variations in color that men fail to identify.

Aggression and Nurturing

1. "Who do you think is usually more aggressive?"
 - a. Answer: Men.
 - b. Studies have detected differences in aggressiveness as early as 18 months.
 - c. STAT: For every 1 woman who is in jail for killing another woman, there are 28 men in jail for killing another man.
2. "Who is usually more nurturing?"
 - a. Answer: Women
 - b. One of the reasons this might be is because they understand and experience emotions better and more strongly than men typically do. A funny exchange from *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling:
 - i. "Don't you understand how Cho's feeling at the moment?" [Hermione] asked.
"No," said Ron and Harry together.
Hermione sighed and laid down her quill.
"Well, obviously, she's feeling very sad, because of Cedric dying. Then I expect she's feeling confused because she liked Cedric and now she likes Harry, and she can't work out who she likes best. Then she'll be feeling guilty, thinking it's an insult to Cedric's memory to be kissing Harry at all, and she'll be worrying about what everyone else might say about her if she starts going out with Harry. And she probably can't work out what her feelings toward Harry are anyway, because he was the one who was with Cedric when Cedric died, so that's all very mixed up and painful. Oh, and she's afraid she's going to be thrown off the Ravenclaw Quidditch team

because she's been flying so badly."

A slightly stunned silence greeted the end of this speech, then Ron said, "One person can't feel all that at once, they'd explode."

"Just because you've got the emotional range of a teaspoon doesn't mean we all have," said Hermione nastily, picking up her quill again."

Friendship

1. Look at how men interact with each other and then look at how women interact with each other:
 - a. Women get together and talk about their heart issues and relationships. They get together for that purpose.
 - b. Men, on the other hand, get together to do or watch some activity. As these men do shoulder-to-shoulder activities with a good friend, they relax and feel comfortable to talk about the deeper issues confronting them. They do not do this with every man with whom they do shoulder to shoulder activities, but only those with whom they experience a special camaraderie and trust.
2. Men typically bond best through shoulder-to-shoulder activities, women through face-to-face conversation.

How Guys and Girls Tend to Experience Things

1. Guys tend to be very visual
 - a. If an attractive guy is wearing really short shorts, showing off his hairy legs, girls aren't tempted to stare at them. Same thing with really tight pants. But if an attractive girl is wearing really short shorts or really tight pants, guys really struggle NOT to look. This is why dressing modestly can help men love and respect women as they ought to be loved and respected (instead of first being seeing as an object).
 - b. Because men are so visual, they sometimes get tempted:
 - i. Pictures and videos of inappropriate stuff on the Internet, in magazines, etc.
 - ii. Women dressed rather inappropriately.
2. Girls tend to be very verbal
 - a. Words and verbal communication are very important for women.
 - b. National Geographic analyzed male and female embryos at 8 weeks old and found that girl embryos mouths started to move all around. Boys mouths were doing nothing... Down the road stats say the average guy speaks about 7,000 words a day. Girls speak about 20,000! You can see this at all kinds of ages:
 - i. Little kids:
 1. Girls playing dolls or princesses or whatever have all kinds of verbal communication. Boys playing with trucks aren't even talking to each other and are only saying, "Boom! Crash! Oh no, he's dead!" etc.
 2. Personal example: Playing GI Joes with my neighbor, Katie. I wanted the GI Joes to go off on a big mission and beat up the bad guys. Katie, on the other hand, had Scarlet and Flint talking and then kissing in the aircraft carrier! I think that was the last time I let her play GI Joes with me. ☺
 - c. Personal example: Made a CD of songs for Kate back in college. At the time we weren't dating. We had been friends for maybe a month or two and I thought she might like some of the music that I had liked at the time... I found out YEARS later, after we were married I think, that Kate READ INTO *all* of the songs from that CD. She analyzed all the lyrics, thinking they were about her. Some of the songs were

love songs (so many songs are!), so she thought I was sending specific messages to her. But then there was a song or two about breakups or being the wrong man for the job that also kind of confused her. Long story short, I gave her CD full of music because I thought she might enjoy it. Kate received the CD full of music and spent hours and hours trying to decipher all kinds of messages that I was NOT trying to send to her. ☺

- i. You see this with a lot of music, in fact:
 1. Boy Bands and boy singers. There have been boy bands and boy singers for FOREVER that girls have gone nuts over. The Beatles. Elvis. New Kids on the Block (when I was a kid). Backstreet Boys. N'YNC. The Biebs. One Direction. And on and on...
 2. How many "girl bands" have guys gone nuts over?
- d. Because women are so verbal, they sometimes get tempted and hurt by:
 - i. Gossip
 - ii. Inappropriate books and magazines (example: 50 Shades of Grey, other romance novels)
 - iii. Smooth talking guys ("I love you, girl, even though we've only been dating for 2 weeks..." The guy says this so he can hook up with her, she hears the words and thinks he means it, and they eventually break up when he's tired of her and she's devastated because she thought he actually loved her when he was really just using her).

Sources

1. *Jason Evert's talk at Catholic Celebration 2013 (St. Paul, MN) and Parenting for Purity CD*
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3. <http://news.discovery.com/human/life/science-behind-gender-differences-130528.htm>
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