

Unit 8 Cross-curricular worksheet

Personal and Social Development: Stereotypes

1 Look at the picture. Do you think men or women speak more?



2 Read the text about stereotypes. Check your answer to exercise 1.

In 2006, Dr Louann Brizendine published a book called *The Female Brain*. In the book, Dr Brizendine looks at differences between men and women. *The Female Brain* got a lot of attention, and many websites and newspapers reported one thing from the book: women speak three times more than men. People wrote to their newspapers and said everybody knew that women spoke more – the book just showed that the stereotype was true.

A psychologist at the University of Arizona in the US didn't believe what Dr Brizendine said, so he decided to do an experiment. He asked 396 male and female university students to carry recording machines with them all day. The results of the study were surprising. It discovered that women use about 16,000 words a day, and that men use about ... 16,000 words a day! In other words, men and women talk the same amount.

When a British newspaper asked Dr Brizendine about this, she agreed that there was a mistake in her book. In fact, the experiment by the University of Arizona was the first scientific investigation into the difference between the number of words used by men and women. Dr Brizendine's book just used a stereotype that both men and women believe.

There are two things we can learn from this. Firstly, people like to hear about scientific research that matches the stereotypes they believe in. Secondly, it's a good idea to be sceptical about the things 'experts' in the media tell us!

3 Translate these words from the text into your language. Use a dictionary to help you.

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| 1 stereotype _____ | 3 experiment _____ | 5 investigation _____ |
| 2 psychologist _____ | 4 recording _____ | 6 sceptical _____ |

4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

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| 1 Newspaper readers agreed with _____ | a how much men and women speak. |
| 2 A psychologist investigated _____ | b that not everything in her book was correct. |
| 3 The experiment recorded _____ | c the words that students used. |
| 4 Dr Brizendine agreed _____ | d confirm the things they already believe. |
| 5 People like scientific books that _____ | e what the book said. |