

| Language Points

Language points

refer to ... as ...: to call ...; to regard ... as

Examples:

- Don't refer to your sister as a silly cow! (= Don't call your sister silly cow.)
- The speaker referred to him as an up-and-coming young Democrat.



Language points

bombard: v. to worry with many continuous questions, requests, complaints, etc.

Examples:

- The audience bombarded him with many questions.
- I'm not very keen on watching TV, because whenever you turn it on, you are bombarded with a lot of advertizements.



Language points

proportion: **n.** relation of one thing to another in quantity, size, etc.
v. to make in or put into correct or suitable proportion

Examples:

- The proportion of men to women in the population has changed in recent years.
- His reputation bore no proportion to his merit.
- One must proportion one's expenditure to one's income.
- The different parts of the house are well proportioned.



Language points

dubious: **adj.** feeling doubt, uncertain

Examples:

- I am dubious about his chances of passing the examination.
- The manager is dubious about the wisdom of this promotion stunt.



Language points

point out: to call or to direct attention to

Examples:

- Mr Merritt pointed this problem out to you the other day.
- May I point out that if we don't decide now we shall have to leave it until next month?



Language points

fulfil: v. to perform, to carry out, to accomplish

Examples:

- He had fulfilled many of his youthful ambitions before he was fifty.
- The administration failed to fulfil its promises to revive the economy of the country.



Language points

flexibility: n. state of willing to easily change to adapt to new conditions

Examples:

- He has enough flexibility to cope with the job.
- A man devoid of imaginative flexibility cannot be a successful actor..



Language points

supposedly: adv. as believed, as it appears

Examples:

- Supposedly she is a rich woman, but no one knows for sure.
- He went home to his father, supposedly to help him.



Language points

by the same token: in the same way; for the same reason

Examples:

- We are grateful to you for giving us shelter for the night, by the same token, we should like to thank your wife for all her kindness.
- Since she was born in a very rich family she had never seen such poverty before, and by the same token she could not quite believe that the children could not go to school.



Language points

... when it comes to ...: when it concerns ...

Examples:

- When it comes to politics, I am an absolute outsider.
- When it comes to mathematics, I'm completely at sea.



Language points

entail: v. to involve; to have as a consequence

Examples:

- This job would entail exceptional competence in computers.
- The flood relief effort will entail great expense by the local government.



Language points

take on: to undertake, to charge oneself with; to assume responsibility for;
to employ

Examples:

- My doctor says I'm too tired and has advised me not to take on any more work.
- In order to support the family, he has to take on some extra work.
- They took her on as a secretary in the company.



Language points

at large: in general

Examples:

- Did the public at large approve of the government's decision?
- The country at large is hoping for great changes, which probably would not materialize.



Language points

hold up ... as: to show or to offer ... as (an example, a model, etc.)

Examples:

- He was held up as an example to every student.
- Grandfather always held up his youngest son as a model of diligence.



Language points

throw up one's hands: to admit that one cannot succeed; to surrender

Examples:

- The enemy soldiers threw up their hands in horror when the tanks first appeared in front of their trenches.
- It was very courageous of him not to throw up his hands and admit failure when the shop went bankrupt.



Language points

at best: in the most favorable case

Examples:

- We will arrive on Thursday evening at best.
- At best we can do only three quarters as much as last year.



Language points

at worst: if one thinks of it in the worst way

Examples:

- He's a fool at best, and at (the) worst he's a criminal.
- At the worst, they can say they didn't see what happened.



Language points

devalue: v. to cause or to be responsible for a lessening of value or quality

Examples:

- Lots of people tried to devalue the great writer's work, all in vain.
- We shall have to devalue our currency soon if we don't want to see a sharp drop in our exports



Language points

strive: v. to struggle hard

Examples:

- He strove for recognition as an abstract artist.
- He is persistently and energetically striving to carry out his plans.



• Sentence Explanation

1. (Para. 1) The more I thought about it, however, the more glaring an omission it seemed.

- **For reference:**

The more I thought about the absence of the father in the movie, the more I became aware of the seriousness of the failure to mention the father.

2. (Para. 3) Meanwhile, a high proportion of media stories about fathers focus on abusive husbands or deadbeat dads.

- For reference:

At the same time, we are exposed to a lot of stories in the media which depict men as husbands who mistreat their wives or as fathers who are good for nothing.

3. (Para. 4) One exception to the “unnecessary father” syndrome is the glowing media attention that at-home dads have received.

- For reference:

The media have paid special positive attention to at-home dads, which is an exception to the “unnecessary father” tendency in society.

- **Sentence Explanation**

4. (Para. 5) ... and it is rare that calls for more workplace flexibility are considered to be for men as much as for women.

- **For reference:**

People seldom consider giving as much flexibility about where one can work to men as to women.

5. (Para. 7) Yet, rather than holding up “ordinary” fathers as positive role models for the dads of tomorrow, too often society has thrown up its hands and decided that traditional fatherhood is at best obsolete and at worst dangerously reactionary.

- For reference:

Instead of offering “ordinary” fathers as good examples for fathers of the future, society has too often given up its efforts and come to think that traditional fatherhood is at best out of date and at worst against social progress.

Content Awareness

- Content Awareness

- Read and think

- ② Discuss with your partner and try to figure out the answers to the following questions. Share your thoughts and responses with the class.

1. What's the main idea of this passage?

For reference:

Working fathers have received little media attention in the US and they have been given little cultural recognition, which is a kind of prejudice against those working dads.

2. What's the author's attitude toward working dads?

For reference:

She thinks that working fathers are unsung heroes. They deserve our recognition and our thanks for what they do.

- Content Awareness

3. What evidence does the author use to illustrate that the importance of fathers is being diminished by the American media?

For reference:

1) The absence of the father in the movie Toy Story. 2) A lot of media stories about the struggles of working mothers. 3) The negative image of fathers in the media (abusive husbands or deadbeat dads). 4) At-home dads are praised by the media. 5) Our society acts as if career satisfaction is above everything else for a man. 6) At-home wives are regarded as “status symbols” by American media.

- **Content Awareness**

4. Do you agree with the author's statements that "the absence of fathers from households causes serious problems for children and, consequently, for society at large?" Can you list some of the problems?

For reference: Open.

5. What's the author's purpose in writing this article?

For reference:

To appeal to society to recognize the value of working fathers.

- Content Awareness

- ③ Read the passage more carefully and fill the following table with information from the passage.

Different Media Attitudes Towards Fathers and Mothers

Father Vs mother	Father	Mother	Key words
			abusive deadbeat struggle
			at-home dads breadwinner fathers at-home mothers
			rare workplace flexibility
			family obligations career satisfaction
			luxury full-time house keeper

- Content Awareness

③ Reference

Father	Mother	Key Words
A high proportion of media stories about fathers focus on abusive husbands or deadbeat dads.	We are bombarded by stories about the struggles of working mothers.	abusive deadbeat struggles
At-home dads are applauded while breadwinner fathers are given little cultural recognition.	At-home mothers are given little recognition.	at-home dads breadwinner fathers at-home mothers
Men are rarely recognized to need more workplace flexibility.	Women are often considered to need more workplace flexibility.	rare workplace flexibility
Career satisfaction seems to be what a man's life is all about.	Family obligations are considered to be important to mothers.	family obligation career satisfaction
Husbands with at-home wives have the luxury of full time housekeepers.	/	luxury full-time housekeepers

- Content Awareness

④ Fill in each of the blanks with an appropriate word.

Nowadays there is a media trend toward diminishing the importance of fathers in the United States. On the one hand, we have easy access to media stories about the struggles of working mothers. On the other, the iimages of fathers presented in the media are always a busive or irresponsible. Fathers are usually blamed for not helping much with the housework. Compared with working mothers and at-home dads, working fathers have received less media attention, although most are quietly yet proudly fulfilling their family duties. Our society has given little cultural recognition to those breadwinner fathers. Recently, there is another media trend of regarding at-home wives as “status symbols” — a luxury not many men can afford to have. In fact, men as sole wage earners suffer many stresses. They have to work extra hours to make more money to support their families. It would be wise for us to be a ware of the importance of fathers to their children. It would also be advisable for us to recognize the great efforts that fathers make to support their families. They, the unsung heroes, deserve our recognition and our thanks for what they do.

• Language Focus

○ Read and complete

- ⑤ Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Each word may be used only once.

applauded mirror entailed striving consequently
supposedly devalue flexibility breadwinner obsoletely
proportion omission dubiously obligation fulfilled

1. Taxes are a(n) _____ which may fall on everybody. ■ obligation
2. We _____ the authority's decision not to close the hospital. ■ applauded
3. The doctor's instructions must be _____ exactly; the sick man's life depends on it. ■ fulfilled
4. Do these opinion polls really _____ what people are thinking?. ■ mirror

• Language Focus

applauded mirror entailed striving consequently
 supposedly devalue flexibility breadwinner obsoletely
 proportion omission dubiously obligation fulfilled

5. I prefer to think of memorization as a stepping-stone to _____ in use of words and phrases.

flexibility

6. In her office memos she tended to _____ the work done by her staff.

devalue

7. The history of railroad transport has partly been a history of _____ for greater efficiency and profit..

striving

8. He took on the new post without having the faintest idea of what it _____.

entailed

9. He is _____ one of the greatest experts in that field.

supposedly

10. Absolute secrecy is essential. _____, the fewer who are aware of the project the better.

consequently

Talk About It

Prepare as many questions as possible about the role of a father in the family and interview your classmates with the help of the tips given below.

• Talk About It



Are you very close to your father?
How close?



Are you and your father friends?^{4/}
In what way?^{4/}



Does your father take good care of you?
Give an example.



Do you receive gifts from your father?^{4/}
Which do you like best?^{4/}



Does your father play games with you?
How often?



Does your father encourage you?^{4/}
In what way?^{4/}



Is your father an at-home dad?
Explain.



Is your father a working dad?
Explain.

Write About It

Write a passage of at least 150 words on the topic “Men Are Different from Women in Many Ways.”

| Write About It

Men Are Different from Women in Many Ways

| Write About It

Men Are Different from Women in Many Ways

Traditionally, men and women were seen as opposite poles of a magnet. Men were strong, women were weak; men were the breadwinners, women were the homemakers; men were rational, women were emotional. In accordance with these beliefs, men filled the leadership positions in society, as well as the majority of positions that required courage, clear-thinking and intellect. Women took on the nurturing, caring or supportive jobs such as nurse, teacher, assistant. However, modern society has greatly challenged these perceived differences between men and women.

These days gender roles are becoming less clear. Women are moving into the male dominated occupations and proving that they can be equally successful in these fields. Moreover, some men are taking on the homemaker role and finding that it suits them. In some cultures, for example the Naxi culture of southwestern China, women have always been the head of the household and responsible for both work and finance.

So, are men and women really all that different? From the changing perspectives toward this question, it would seem that socialization plays a large role in defining masculinity and femininity in any given time period and in any given culture. In other words, perhaps men and women are not that different after all.