

Science Concludes Difference In Male & Female Brain Doesn't Exist

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

The long held belief that men and women are **hardwired** differently in the brain turns out to be completely false. For the last few decades' scientists have argued that the male brain was associated with being more **rational** and **analytical**, while females are thought to be more communicative and sympathetic. However, University of Tel-Aviv held a massive study looking at the brains of over 1400 people which researched the grey and white matter of the brain, as well as the connections within the brain.

The results concluded that rarely any statistical data could be linked to specific "male" or "female" traits. Dr. Joel, head researcher of the study, stated that: "Most brains are **comprised** of unique **mosaics** of features" – i.e. we all have a mixture of characteristics that are more commonly found in men or women." Dr. Joel also went on to say that less than eight percent of those studied had brains that could be **consistently** classified as "male" or "female". Therefore, it is impossible to categorize brains into two **distinct** classes. The studies findings would suggest that while women and men's roles in society differ, it has little to do with differences in the brain and is created through the societies culture and gender roles.

Synonym Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the corresponding synonym in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) trait	a.) built-in
2.) gender	b.) pattern

Column 1	Column 2
3.) linked	c.) group
4.) hardwired	d.) logical
5.) distinct	e.) connected to
6.) consistently	f.) well defined
7.) mosaic	g.) constantly
8.) rational	h.) reasonable
9.) analytical	i.) sex
10.) categorize	j.) characteristic

Questions:

Easy:

- 1.) What do men and women do differently in your culture?
- 2.) What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a man/woman?
- 3.) Who has an easier life in your culture men or women? Why?

Intermediate:

- 1.) What do women **excel** at that men tend to struggle with and **vice-versa**?
- 2.) What has the greatest **influence** over a persons personality? For example, family, schooling, social class, siblings, gender, etc...
- 3.) How are men/women in your culture viewed if they take a non-traditional role in society? For example, stay at home dad or female soldier.

Advanced:

- 1.) Have you experienced any form of discrimination in your life? For example, **discrimination**, sexism, etc... How did it affect you?
- 2.) Is there a **glass-ceiling** for women in the workforce? What are some obstacles women might face that men do not in the workplace?
- 3.) Are relations between men and women improving in your view or are they getting worse? What are some issues that men and women hold different views about? For example, **child-rearing**, importance of education, etc...

Vocabulary:

- **hardwired**: Genetically determined or compelled. "Fear is hardwired in our brain."
- **rational**: Being based on reason and logic. "My father always explained things in a very rational way."
- **analytical**: Relating to or using analysis or logical reasoning. "It's best to take an analytical approach towards solving complex problems."
- **comprised**: To consist of. "The class is comprised of mostly Korean students."
- **mosaics**: A picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces. "The community represents a mosaic of different cultures and peoples."
- **consistently**: Unchanging in achievement or effect over a period of time. "Apple has consistently released new iPhones since its initial release with the iPhone 1."
- **distinct**: Readily distinguishable by the senses. "The teacher had a very distinct big nose."
- **excel**: To be exceptionally good at or proficient in an activity or subject. "He excels at most sports, especially baseball."
- **vice versa**: In reverse order from the way something has been stated; the other way around. "She dislikes me, and vice versa."
- **influence**: The ability to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something. "My teacher influenced me to study English every night until speaking came naturally."
- **discrimination**: The unjust treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex. "The discrimination the blacks faced during the early 1900's was deplorable."
- **glass-ceiling**: An unofficially acknowledged barrier to advancement in a profession, especially affecting women and members of minorities. "There isn't a single woman on the board of directors, the effects of the glass ceiling are still prevalent, I guess."

- **child-rearing**: The process of bringing up a child or children. "Child-rearing is often delegated to the mother in most traditional families."

Daily Expressions & Idioms:

1.) **rags to riches**: You start your life rather poor and then become rich.

"After developing Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg went from rags to riches."

2.) **open up**: Means to share your feelings and thoughts with someone.

"He was really shy at first, but during the course of the year he opened up and told me a lot about what happened to him during the war."