

## The hidden physical powers that help women outlive men

People who lived through the Irish Potato Famine, enslavement in Trinidad and Icelandic measles epidemics all have something in common: Women outlive men in dire circumstances. That's because the female body is built for resilience and longevity, as I found while researching for my new book, "The Stronger Sex."

Despite having more complex reproductive organs and the burdensome, sometimes fatal, functions that come with them — menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding — female bodies tend to outlast male bodies. And that's the case even though girls in many parts of the world have access to fewer resources, such as food and medical care, than boys do.

That female toughness holds true in extreme circumstances, as Virginia Zarulli, now an associate professor of demography at Italy's University of Padua, found when she analyzed survival data across seven historical populations experiencing famines, epidemics and enslavement.

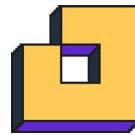
Under these brutal conditions, women outlived men across almost all ages and locations, including among the "high-mortality" populations who confronted famine in Ukraine, Ireland and Sweden; enslavement in Trinidad; and measles epidemics in Iceland, according to her 2018 study, published in the journal PNAS. Even newborn girls in these environments had a higher survival rate than newborn boys — a hint that the female survival advantage is rooted in biology.

Essential female strength also shows up today in places where women experience fewer extreme physical stresses overall: "When we analyze the empirical data, for modern people it shows that death rates for men are higher than for women, pretty much at every age," Zarulli said. Recognizing and building on these sex-based differences can help transform how we approach health care, including treatments for cancer and vaccine protocols — making medicine more precise, personalized and effective, especially for women.

### Female chromosomes and hormones

People assigned female at birth have two X chromosomes, a fundamental advantage over XY, the chromosomes males have at birth. That's because the X chromosome is much larger, containing roughly 10 times more genes. Female bodies therefore have access to a wider range of immune genes, making their defense system remarkably strong and diverse. As neurogeneticist and evolutionary biologist Dr. Sharon Moalem wrote in "The Better Half: On the Genetic Superiority of Women," his book about the XX chromosome advantage, "Women have immunologically evolved to out-mutate men." Since viruses and bacteria are always mutating, an immune system that can quickly adapt is more resilient.

Estrogen, generally higher in female bodies, also confers a variety of immune advantages. As a result, female mammals — including humans — have better-equipped immune systems, in both their innate, generalized responses and their adaptive, specialized responses. Female bodies also have higher counts of active neutrophils, the most common type of white blood cell that fights infections.



Scientists have also found that female bodies have more robust B cell activity — the action of white blood cells that adapt to fight off viruses or bacteria. This advantage may also be due in part to estrogen, and researchers are trying to tease apart what is mediated by hormones, what is affected by genes and what might be attributable to other causes.

Women produce more targeted antibodies to fight infections and also retain immunological memory longer, making their bodies more adept at responding to future infections, according to researchers. This all leads to “the very well-known phenomenon that males tend to be more susceptible to a lot of diseases than females — though not in every disease or every individual, of course,” said Marlene Zuk, a Regents Professor and evolutionary biologist at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Since female bodies mount stronger immune defenses, they generally have a stronger vaccine and virus response, a greater ability to fight off sepsis and a decreased risk of some cancers. The downside of this powerful system, however, is that women get more autoimmune diseases than men do. Women are also more likely to live with chronic illness after surviving diseases that would have killed male bodies.

### **The effect of testosterone**

Testosterone also seems to be an immune disadvantage, and males have more of that hormone than females do. Zuk said that in early experiments scientists found they could “neuter male animals and their immunity would get better or inject female animals with testosterone and their immunity would get worse.”

Why? It may be that the testosterone enables male animals toward greater reproductive success by “living hard and dying young,” Zuk said. Some of the female immune advantage may be male immune disadvantage, and while it’s accepted that hormones affect immunity, determining to what degree is an ongoing research question.

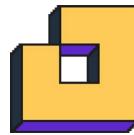
### **Physiology and culture**

Some scientists argue that lifestyle and culture lead to a significant part of the male longevity disadvantage. As a population, men tend to smoke more, drink more alcohol and engage in riskier activities than women, and men tend to exclude most women from more physically dangerous jobs.

Studies focused on what happens when women adopt some of the unhealthy habits traditionally more likely among male populations, such as smoking, still show that women live longer than men, Zarulli said. “In populations where men and women had the same lifestyle, there was still a difference in mortality — women had a higher life expectancy than men.” The female advantage is likely due to more than genetic and hormonal factors, according to new research: It’s also found in the very structure of women’s bodies.

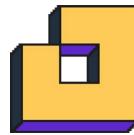
At North Carolina State University, a team led by microbial ecologist Erin McKenney and forensic anthropologist Amanda Hale conducted a landmark study measuring the lengths of the small intestines in cadavers for the first time since 1885. The team discovered that women’s small intestines were significantly longer than men’s — an advantage that allows women to extract more nutrition from the same quantity of food.

Source: [The hidden physical powers that help women outlive men](http://www.alternatira.com)



## **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Resilience :
2. Longevity :
3. Epidemics :
4. Demography :
5. Extract :
6. Longer :
7. Evolutionary :
8. Immunological:
9. Engage :
10. Neutrophils :
11. Robust :
12. Attributable :
13. Susceptible :
14. Risky :
15. Disease :
16. Physiology :
17. Anthropologist:
18. Cadavers :
19. Intestines :
20. Microbial :



## Versace's legacy is more than just daring dresses

From bondage styles to safety pinned dresses, daring party frocks are widely considered to be the key protagonists of Gianni Versace's sartorial legacy. But the late Italian fashion designer was also responsible for some of the most majestic silk shirts of the 1990s, and his close friend Elton John owned one in every print. "They're just works of art," shared the acclaimed singer-songwriter in a promotional video for auction house Christie's last year, characterizing his deep affection for Versace's patterns. "I never wore half of them, I just wanted to hang them. It was like an art installation with shirts, and it looked so beautiful."

Now, they're getting their moment in the spotlight. Versace's impressive line-up of shirts will be among the 450 original garments, accessories, sketches, interviews and photographs exhibited in the largest retrospective of the designer in the UK. Held at Arches London Bridge in the British capital, and running through March 2026, the show will feature looks worn by Princess Diana, Sir Elton John, Kate Moss, George Michael and Naomi Campbell, among others.

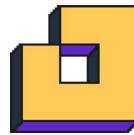
Versace, who founded his eponymous label in 1978, made his name shaping the fashion landscape in the 1980s and early '90s with glamorous and often provocative designs. And his influence continues to be pervasive in fashion and culture today.

In an email to CNN, Dutch-Swedish model Marcus Schenkenberg recalled that the first piece of Versace clothing he ever owned was also a colorful green and yellow silk shirt. "It was one of my favorite shirts," explained Schenkenberg, who gained prominence in the late '80s and is widely considered as one of the first male supermodels. Introduced to Gianni Versace at a casting in 1990, three years later he would front a couture campaign for the house with Stephanie Seymour, shot by Richard Avedon.

Though perhaps less visibly transformative than some of its feminine counterparts, the silk shirt is nonetheless emblematic of Versace's fondness for ostentatious design (many were adorned with the house's signature Barocco print). One of the standout features of the retrospective is a black wall decorated with the busy silk shirts. "It's an homage to both of them (Versace and Elton John), their friendship and to London," said curator Saskia Lubnow, speaking on a video call alongside her colleague and co-curator Karl von der Ahe, and Liz Koravos, managing director of Arches London Bridge.

Since 2017, Lubnow and von der Ahe have poured over the designer's work, building an impressive archive of pieces borrowed from long time collectors, and subsequently showcasing the retrospective at museums across Europe, first in Berlin, Germany in 2018 and most recently in Málaga, Spain.

The latest London iteration however, feels particularly special, not least because of the expanded offering (it boasts 50 more pieces than its Spanish counterpart), but also the relationship Versace had with the city, staging an exhibition at the V&A museum in 1985 (when the house was still in its relative infancy), and surrounding himself with people based in the capital, from Elton John and George Michael to fashion editors Anna Wintour and Suzy Menkes, as well as Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss, and of course Princess Diana. "It had a very strong impact on him, and London was also a kind of bridge towards the USA," noted von der Ahe.



The exhibition's timing is also significant, arriving just four months after his sister Donatella announced she was stepping down as chief creative officer of the house, having helmed Versace since Gianni's murder in 1997. The news that her successor would be someone outside the family for the first time — former Miu Miu design director Dario Vitale took over in April — marks an important new era for the house. The retrospective feels particularly apt as a result.

"It was always nice to work for Gianni," Schenkenberg continued, reflecting on his experiences with the designer in the 1990s. "He was always very kind and he was really one of the hottest designers at the time — everybody wanted to work with him, it could really make your career." Indeed, while a copy of Versace's "Men Without Ties", a book about menswear fronted by Schenkenberg and authored by the designer in 1994, is amongst the featured ephemera; so too is the January 1990 issue of British Vogue. Cementing the age of the supermodel — a concept largely engineered by Versace — it featured Campbell, Linda Evangelista, Tatjana Patitz, Christy Turlington, and Cindy Crawford on the cover (the following year, four of the five would lip-sync to George Michael's "Freedom" at Versace's fall-winter 1991 show).

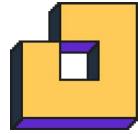
Versace was instrumental in marrying fashion and celebrity, a practice typical by today's standards but groundbreaking amongst his peers at the time. "Elton John was basically his billboard, he wore (Versace) on the street, on the stage — he was always advertising," said Lubnow.

"He revolutionized the relationship between fashion and celebrity," agreed Schenkenberg. "Versace was one of the first designers to merge fashion with pop culture. In doing so, he made fashion feel glamorous, accessible, and alive in a way few others had done before, especially with celebs like Madonna, Prince, Tupac Shakur, Demi Moore, and of course all the supermodels."

This affinity for fame and dressing influential artists can easily be read as a precursor to today's influencer culture, and von der Ahe observed that Versace was privy to a unique position during his tenure. "He was in-between the old and the new. He had a profound knowledge about making fashion and the background of Italian manufacturing, but on the other hand, he started to separate the product from the brand," von der Ahe said. "He was coming from the old world, but opened the doors to the new world."

Central to the exhibition are the collections from spring-summer 1988 through to fall-winter 1997 which are curated in chronological order. Versace "changed so much from collection to collection, but there is a red thread," explained Lubnow. "He had the ability to mix patterns and colors. You never looked like a clown, but actually quite sophisticated, and that's really an ability he had, and this vision he took from his culture — from his mother and from the tailor shop into street style, putting jeans on the haute couture runway; all these things he meshed together."

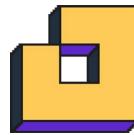
Versace himself was keenly attuned to the various influences that informed his work, once commenting, "There is a Versace who is very conservative, there is a Versace who is very crazy, there is a Versace who is very theatre ... I haven't decided yet which I choose to be."



"The depth of what you can learn from him and his work is amazing," said von der Ahe, speaking to the impact of Versace. "You might think everything is superficial, the bold fashion, but when you work with it, you really understand a lot about Italian culture, Italian history, about the time. And with Gianni Versace, you remember pieces that perhaps you only briefly saw in a magazine, a book or on TV. You remember it, even if you don't know why, and that is really the magic with him."

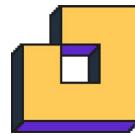
Or, as Lubnow simply described Versace's designs, "they are showstoppers." Versace himself was keenly attuned to the various influences that informed his work, once commenting, "There is a Versace who is very conservative, there is a Versace who is very crazy, there is a Versace who is very theatre ... I haven't decided yet which I choose to be."

Source: [Versace's legacy is more than just daring dresses](#)



## Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Sartorial :
2. Legacy :
3. Retrospective :
4. Eponymous :
5. Pervasive :
6. Emblematic :
7. Ostentatious :
8. Homage :
9. Curator :
10. Iteration :
11. Helmed :
12. Successor :
13. Ephemera :
14. Engineered :
15. Instrumental :
16. Groundbreaking:
17. Precursor :
18. Chronological :
19. Sophisticated :
20. Superficial :



## **As nicotine pouches' popularity soars, they're also responsible for more poisonings in young kids, study finds**

Nicotine pouches are a fast-growing source of nicotine poisoning in young children, according to a new study. Researchers at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio analyzed more than a decade's worth of data, examining over 134,000 cases of children under 6 who accidentally ingested nicotine through products like vapes, gums, and lozenges. Most types of exposures fell after 2016. But one delivery method — nicotine pouches — shot up, rising more than 760% between 2020 and 2023.

"It's a high-concentration nicotine product, and it tastes good," said Dr. Natalie Rine, director of the Central Ohio Poison Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital and co-author of the study, published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*. "There's nothing telling the kid, 'this is bad, you should spit it out' ... and that's where you get into trouble."

The miniature white packets that users tuck between their lip and gum hit US shelves in 2014. They don't contain tobacco but are instead filled with nicotine, either synthetically or naturally derived, along with flavorings and sweeteners.

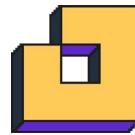
The discreet, sweet and smokeless nature of nicotine pouches has raised concerns among public health advocates, who are closely watching their rising popularity among teens and young adults. They've become the second most-used nicotine product among young people, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The National Youth Tobacco Survey found that nicotine pouch use among teens doubled between 2021 and 2024.

Still, the overall user base remains small. Just 0.5% of Americans use nicotine pouches, compared with 9% who smoke cigarettes and 3% who vape or use e-cigarettes, according to US Census Bureau data.

In January, the US Food and Drug Administration gave marketing authorization to certain nicotine pouches for the first time, allowing sales of 10 flavors of popular brand Zyn to help adult smokers quit or cut back on their tobacco use. The agency said the Zyn products contain fewer harmful ingredients than cigarettes and some types of chewing tobacco.

The FDA noted at the time that overall youth use of nicotine pouches was low, at just 1.8% of middle and high school students. Levels of nicotine in pouches can vary from 3 to 12 milligrams per pouch. At their lowest doses, they deliver more of the stimulant than a cigarette, and even small amounts of nicotine can be dangerous for small children. Ingesting just 1 to 2 milligrams — less than what's inside a single regular-strength pouch — can cause nausea, vomiting and tremors, among other serious symptoms, according to the National Library of Medicine.

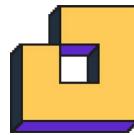
The study found that nicotine pouches were associated with a 150% greater risk of serious medical effects and were twice as likely to lead to hospitalization than other smokeless nicotine products swallowed by children, like gums, lozenges, e-liquids, tablets and powders. Although the vast majority of pediatric nicotine ingestions resulted in little to no harm, more than 1,600 children had serious medical outcomes, the study found. Two children died after ingesting liquid nicotine.



Philip Morris International, which owns Zyn through its company Swedish Match, said in a statement Monday that each can of nicotine pouches includes a warning about keeping the product out of the reach of children, and that the packaging is designed be child-resistant.

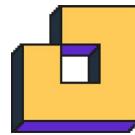
Rine recommends that parents avoid using nicotine pouches in front of children to keep them from imitating potentially risky adult behaviors. She also suggests keeping nicotine products physically out of kids' reach and to have conversations with other caretakers, like babysitters and extended family, about doing the same.

Source: [As nicotine pouches' popularity soars, they're also responsible for more poisonings in young kids, study finds](#)



## **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Poisoning :
2. Accidentally :
3. Ingested :
4. Lozenges :
5. Exposures :
6. Concentration :
7. Synthetically :
8. Derived :
9. Advocates :
10. Authorization :
11. Stimulant :
12. Nausea :
13. Vomiting :
14. Tremors :
15. Hospitalization:
16. Pediatric :
17. Ingestions :
18. Outcomes :
19. Resistant :
20. Caretakers :



## **Nicotine pouches for your mouth are becoming increasingly popular. Here's why health experts are concerned**

A relatively new nicotine product with a tobacco-free and smokeless design has drawn in a wave of new users in just the past year: oral nicotine pouches that sit at the gums and are nearly undetectable when in use. The leading brand Zyn, introduced in the United States in 2014, shipped 350 million cans, about 15 pouches per can, in 2023 — a 62% increase compared with the previous year, Philip Morris International announced in February.

While the product is aimed at adults who already use nicotine, some health professionals and researchers are worried the attention could attract an influx of brand-new users, especially among younger people.

Zyn does not use social media influencers to market, and the company's social media posts on Facebook and Instagram for US audiences are age-gated to 21 and older, a spokesperson for Philip Morris International said in an email. Yet colleges across the United States have seen a rise in Zyn usage on campus, while social media has a new type of unofficial influencer for nicotine — a "Zynfluencer."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer recently called for Federal Trade Commission and Food and Drug Administration regulators to investigate Zyn's marketing strategies and health impacts. "I'm delivering a warning to parents, because these nicotine pouches seem to lock their sights on young kids — teenagers, and even lower — and then use the social media to hook them," he said in a January press conference.

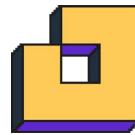
### **Are nicotine pouches better than vaping?**

Tobacco is a known carcinogen that can cause several types of cancer. Cigarette smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Zyn, among other brands of nicotine pouches such as Rogue, On! and Velo, markets its pouches as an alternative product to smoking and using tobacco.

While using a nicotine pouch does not entail inhaling chemicals as with cigarettes or vape pens, Kecia Christensen, a nurse practitioner in pulmonary disease and thoracic surgery at Nebraska Medicine, does not recommend the use of pouch products as a means to quit smoking at this time.

"It's good that these companies are trying to come up with nontobacco-related forms of nicotine for people to try to wean their addiction. ... The problem, I think, with products like this is that until they are completely regulated by the FDA, what I tell my patients is, 'I don't really know for sure what's in those things,'" said Christensen, who is also a certified tobacco treatment specialist. Philip Morris International's application for FDA authorization has been pending since 2020, according to the company. However, FDA officials have allowed the nontobacco nicotine product to stay on the market while the application is under review.

While more research on the product is needed, Christensen said, the nicotine pouches could potentially help curb cravings for those looking to ultimately stop tobacco and nicotine use altogether if the amount of nicotine is incrementally decreased to be less than what a



person was taking in with cigarettes or chewing tobacco. The numbers can vary, but Christensen often tells patients to think of one cigarette as having 5 to 10 milligrams of nicotine each, with the actual amount inhaled probably less than that. Nicotine pouches have varying degrees of nicotine strength; 3 or 6 milligrams per pouch is most common, but some brands have pouches that contain upward of 28 milligrams.

### **Nicotine addiction and mental health**

Oftentimes, patients who are trying to quit tobacco instead get addicted to nicotine through vaping, sometimes even more so than with cigarettes, according to Christensen. That's because vapes are easier to use and are often used indoors rather than outside on smoke breaks, she said. Nicotine pouches are even more discreet, with a small pouch measuring at 0.6 inches by 1.1 to 1.3 inches (14 millimeters by 28 to 32 millimeters), similar to a piece of chewing gum, that can be popped in the mouth virtually anywhere without anyone else knowing.

A dependency on nicotine causes cravings and withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, headaches, dizziness and fatigue. Researchers have found long-term usage may be connected with heart disease, vascular disease, reproductive disturbances and more, according to the National Cancer Institute. Nicotine does not cause cancer or lung disease, according to the FDA. Addiction to nicotine can be particularly tough to break when the usage is associated with coping methods for stress, anxiety or depression, Christensen said.

"Mental health is really wrapped pretty tightly up with nicotine addiction," she added. "The biggest reason why people relapse and start smoking again or chewing again is because something bad happens in their life, you know, they have some new stress or somebody dies or they lost their job or they're getting a divorce, and then they start smoking again, because they can't handle those emotions, or they don't think they can without smoking." And the habit can be particularly difficult to kick for those who have been using nicotine since they were teenagers, Christensen added.

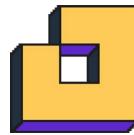
### **Zyn and mouth soreness**

Nicotine pouch users hold the pouch to their gum for up to an hour, which may cause a sore mouth or gum irritation. But the full effects of the oral product are not known as of yet, with more research needed to understand how nicotine usage might be associated with gum disease or cavities, said Yanfang Ren, a professor and chairman of the department of diagnostic sciences at the University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health in upstate New York.

"If you put something, anything in the mouth for a long time, potentially you might have some irritation to the gum — but to what extent, that's something we really don't know yet," Ren said. He was a part of a December 2017 study that looked at the effect cigarette smoke had on the color of the teeth that was partially funded by Philip Morris International.

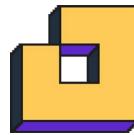
For those looking to quit tobacco and nicotine altogether for a healthier lifestyle, Moran recommends visiting a primary health care provider, as well as using resources provided online by the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center. The CDC also has online resources to help those aiming to quit smoking.

Source: [Nicotine pouches for your mouth are becoming increasingly popular. Here's why health experts are concerned](#)



## **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Undetectable : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Influx : \_\_\_\_\_
3. Gated : \_\_\_\_\_
4. Regulators : \_\_\_\_\_
5. Carcinogen : \_\_\_\_\_
6. Pulmonary : \_\_\_\_\_
7. Thoracic : \_\_\_\_\_
8. Wean : \_\_\_\_\_
9. Pending : \_\_\_\_\_
10. Cravings : \_\_\_\_\_
11. Incrementally : \_\_\_\_\_
12. Discreet : \_\_\_\_\_
13. Dependency : \_\_\_\_\_
14. Withdrawal : \_\_\_\_\_
15. Irritability : \_\_\_\_\_
16. Vascular : \_\_\_\_\_
17. Disturbances : \_\_\_\_\_
18. Relapse : \_\_\_\_\_
19. Soreness : \_\_\_\_\_
20. Irritation : \_\_\_\_\_



## Dress codes: Why do brides wear veils?

One of the oldest elements of a bridal ensemble, dating at least as far back as Ancient Greece, veils have largely remained a staple accessory for even the most modern, subversive brides. When singer Lily Allen married actor David Harbour at an Elvis-inspired Las Vegas chapel in 2020, she eschewed an ornate gown in favor of a '60s-style Dior double-breasted mini-dress — but still wore a conventional tiered veil in her up-do. And when singer Gwen Stefani decided on a boundary-pushing wedding frock (also Dior, designed by John Galliano for her 2002 wedding) that was dip-dyed in a shock of pink; so too was her trailing veil.

Over the weekend, Lauren Bezos Sanchez became the latest high-profile bride complete her look with tulle on top during her lavish, eyebrow-raising wedding in Venice. After slipping on her custom Dolce & Gabbana mermaid-line gown at her final fitting, seamstresses applied the cascading lace-finished veil to Bezos Sanchez's head "like a crown," according to *Vogue*.

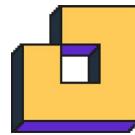
### A veiled history

At her wedding in 1840, Queen Victoria swapped her velvet robe of state in favor of a white silk gown — its wide, almost off-the-shoulder neckline trimmed with a curtain of lace. On the day she married Prince Albert, she was not the British monarch, but an adoring bride dressed in the purest ivory to signify her virtue. (The archbishop asked if Her Majesty would like the word "obey" removed from the vows. She insisted it remained.) If only for just a few hours, she was playing a different role and wearing a different costume: Both would endure for well over a century.

Only recently have some of the traditional aspects of bridal wear first popularized by Victoria been updated for modern times. Hemlines are growing ever higher as the mini wedding dress reigns supreme in the age of the pared-down ceremony; while some brides have opted out of a dress altogether — gliding down the aisle in a tailored suits instead. An increasing number of brides, such as singer and actress Mandy Moore at her wedding in 2018, opt out of wearing white altogether (she chose a dusty-rose gown from Rodarte). Yet despite these contemporary reforms, one long-established accessory has displayed more staying power than the rest: The veil.

If anything, veils appear to have gotten bigger in recent years — sometimes demanding more attention than the dress itself. In 2018, actress Priyanka Chopra made headlines with her Ralph Lauren wedding gown, topped off with 75-feet of tulle (and five people to help carry it). The following year, Hailey Baldwin (now Hailey Bieber) married Justin Bieber in a giant Off-White wedding veil with the words "Till Death do us Part" embroidered at the hem of the pooling fabric.

Since then, grandiose rivers of tulle have streamed through celebrity ceremonies like fast-rushing water: from Sophia Richie to Paris Hilton, Naomi Biden, Nicola Peltz Beckham and Millie Bobby Brown. "The veil has become a canvas that really provides the drama you might not get from a more minimalist dress," said Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, author of "The Way We Wed: A Global History of Wedding Fashion," in a phone call with CNN.



## A return to fashion

Previously, veils of grandeur — or length — were reserved for royal nuptials. In 1981, Princess Diana wore the largest veil in the monarch's history, clocking in at a whopping 25-foot. It was hand-embellished with 10,000 micro pearls by London-based seamstress Peggy Umpleby, who took the veil home on public transport each day to continue working on it well into the night. Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, followed suit in 2018 with a 16-foot long veil made of silk tulle, hand-embroidered with the flowers of the Commonwealth countries.

The veil's appeal has even trickled off the aisle and onto the runway. This season at Paris Fashion Week, Andreas Kronthaler, creative director at Vivienne Westwood, sent both a black and white tulle veil down the catwalk, off-setting a polka dot and navy dress respectively. At the London shows, Turkish designer Bora Aksu went one step further, offering netted veils in red and blush pink. Even at this year's Grammys, musician Gracie Abrams donned a chiffon Chanel veil for the ceremony's red carpet.

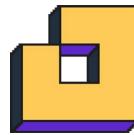
But according to Chrisman-Campbell, veils are simply returning to fashion — not being adopted by it. Historically, veils in western culture began as "a fashion for the wealthy," she said. The upper echelons wore hand-made lace, which during the late 18th century was worth more than its weight in gold. (According to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, one meter of lace would take a skilled worker in the 1700s a year to produce.)

"Wearing lace, whether a ruffle or a veil or a cap was a status symbol," Chrisman-Campbell said. By the early 1800s, industrialization introduced machine-made lace, making the fabric more affordable to the masses. "Suddenly, more people could afford to have a very beautiful piece of diaphanous, beautifully embellished textile," she said. "That's why veils became fashionable."

In Ancient Greece, the bridal veil, also known as a "flammeum," was seen as a form of protection for women, shielding them from evil spirits, wedding jitters and other potential bad omens. Other cultures have used the garment as a means of obscuring the bride's face during the final moments before an arranged marriage. Since veils have existed throughout history in a variety of cultures, they are a shifting emblem — representing mystical boundaries, or potentially misogynistic attitudes. One urban myth argues veils were intended to hinder women from potentially running away, while others speculate they symbolize a bride being untouched and brand new — a prize to be unwrapped.

### 'Anything but a veil'

While Chrisman-Campbell isn't convinced by every interpretation of the veil, she has observed its association with purity and chastity — which, for at least a century, meant divorcees and widows wearing veils during their second wedding was widely considered a social faux pas. "There was a big taboo against wearing a veil if you had been married once before," she said. Second brides were also excluded from wearing white, carrying a bouquet or wearing a floor-length gown. "But women came up with some really ingenious alternatives," said Chrisman-Campbell. "They might wear a hat, they might wear a floral arrangement in their hair, anything but a veil."

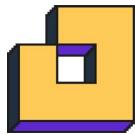


For her second wedding in 1964, Elizabeth Taylor wore a marigold yellow chiffon baby doll dress — her hair braided down her back and strewn with flowers. Meanwhile, in 1962, Audrey Hepburn dutifully toed the line with the sartorial rules of second marriages, saying “I do” to Italian psychiatrist Andrea Dotti in a short baby-pink Givenchy mini dress and a silk headscarf. “If you didn’t pretend it was your first marriage, it made it more acceptable,” Chrisman-Campbell added.

The expectation that second-time brides should pare down their look finally waned in the 1980s, and these stringent sartorial rules became redundant. One of the most joyful examples of a third-time bride embracing the pomp and pageantry of a big white wedding was Angelina Jolie. During her 2014 nuptials to Brad Pitt, Jolie wore a classic ivory satin Versace gown. The main event, however, was her veil, which was embroidered with colourful drawings from her children.

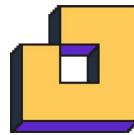
“She really upended the whole idea of the veil as suggesting modesty or virginity, or any sort of bashfulness,” said Chrisman-Campbell, who felt this level of personalization spoke to a new era of progressive matrimony. “(Today) there are often blended families involved, so the children are involved, and the wedding becomes an even bigger deal because it represents not just two people joining, but two families joining.”

Source: [Dress codes: Why do brides wear veils?](#)



### **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Ensemble :
2. Subversive :
3. Eschewed :
4. Cascading :
5. Pared-down :
6. Grandiose :
7. Nuptials :
8. Diaphanous :
9. Flammeum :
10. Obscuring :
11. Misogynistic :
12. Hinder :
13. Chastity :
14. Faux pas :
15. Ingenious :
16. Sartorial :
17. Waned :
18. Stringent :
19. Pageantry :
20. Matrimony :



## **Kids are asking AI companions to solve their problems, according to a new study. Here's why that's a problem**

When two of James Johnson-Byrne's friends got into an argument earlier this year, he didn't know what to do. So the 16-year-old turned to an AI companion for advice. AI companions are digital characters who text and talk with users, according to Common Sense Media, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that helps parents and teachers instill critical thinking skills in children. The chatbot told Johnson-Byrne, who lives in Philadelphia, to separate his friends. He did so and it solved the immediate problem, he said. But "now they don't talk much."

The experience showed him that AI companions "can't find the deeper issue," he said. "I'd be scared to ask them a deep, underlying question." Another thing that struck Johnson-Byrne was how AI companions seemed to always agree with him and tell him what he wanted to hear. And he found the way they talk to be eerily similar to humans. At one point when he was talking to an AI companion, "I forgot it was actually not my friend," he said. New research suggests other teens are having the same experience.

The majority of teenagers — 72% — have used AI companions, according to the survey of over 1,000 13–17-year-olds conducted this year by Common Sense Media. Over half of teens use them regularly, according to the research, and one-third turn to them for relationships and social interactions. What's more, 31% of teens say their conversations with AI companions are as satisfying as or more satisfying than their conversations with other people, and 33% have discussed serious and important issues with AI companions instead of other humans. The findings shed new light on the relationships teens are developing with AI tools.

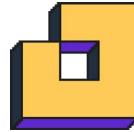
### **Chatbots don't make good friends**

The results are cause for concern because the teen years are a "sensitive time of social development," said Michael Robb, lead author of the study and head of research at Common Sense Media. "We don't want kids to feel like they should be confiding or going to AI companions in lieu of a friend, a parent or a qualified professional," especially when they need help with serious issues.

What's more, AI companions can't model healthy human relationships. "In the real world there are all kinds of social cues that kids have to both interpret and get used to and learn how to respond to," Robb pointed out. But kids can't learn to pick up on things like body language from a chatbot.

Chatbots are also sycophantic, Robb said. "They want to please you, and they won't put up a lot of friction in the way that people in the real world might." If users get used to an AI companion always telling them what they want to hear, "when you encounter friction or difficulty in real world interactions, you're going to be less prepared," he said.

AI companions might seem real, making kids feel less lonely temporarily when they engage with them, he said. But that could reduce their human interactions, leaving them lonelier over the long term.



"Engaging with Characters on our site should be interactive and entertaining, but it's important for our users to remember that Characters are not real people," said Chelsea Harrison, head of communications at Character.AI, a popular AI companion. She said she could not comment on the report because she hadn't yet seen it.

The company tries to find a safe space, provides disclaimers that characters aren't real and has a separate version for users under age 18 designed to minimize "sensitive or suggestive content" and self-harm content, Harrison said, noting that Character.AI has other safety features including tools providing parents insights, filtered characters and notifications of time spent on its platform. Another cause for concern is that 24% of teens said they've shared personal information with AI companions. Kids might not realize that when they share things such as their personal struggles with an AI companion, they're sharing that data with companies, not friends.

What's more, "you're often granting these companies very extensive perpetual rights to your personal information that they can use however they want," Robb said. "They can modify it. They can store it. They can display it. They can work it into other things."

Robb said a limitation of the research is that it was conducted at a single point in time, but people's use of technology keeps changing. He also said the teens could have overreported behaviors they thought were desirable, like using chatbots in healthy ways, which means the situation could be even worse than the results suggest. Thankfully, there are things parents can do to protect their kids.

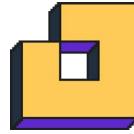
### **Start by talking to your teens**

Parents should start by talking to their teens about AI companions "without judgment," Robb said. You can ask something like, "have you used an app that lets you talk to or create an AI friend or partner?" Listen to learn what is appealing about these tools to your teen before you jump into concerns, he suggested.

Then, it's a good idea to point out that "AI companions are programmed to be agreeable and programmed to be validating" and discuss why that's a concern, Robb said. Teens should know that "that's just not how real relationships work, because real friends sometimes disagree with us. Parents sometimes disagree with us, or they can challenge us in ways we don't expect or help us navigate difficult situations in ways that AI simply cannot." Having conversations like this can help kids learn to think about AI more broadly in healthy ways, Robb said.

### **Encourage your kids to meet friends face-to-face**

One reason I wasn't surprised so many teens are using AI companions as friends is because I've seen in my own research how social media has weakened kids' sense of what friendships are. These days, kids get together less with their friends in person than in past generations and often consider things like commenting on someone's posts to be a way of maintaining a relationship. As a result, they have less practice with offline human interactions. One of the best things we can do is encourage our kids to get together with friends and other peers in person.



"So much of our joy in our real-life friendships is these close connections where we can look at each other and understand each other without saying a word," said Justine Carino, a Westchester, New York-based psychotherapist who treats young people and was not involved in the study.

"Our crush walks in the classroom," she said. "The teacher says something crazy. You make eye contact with your best friend. There are these nuances where we learn to communicate intimately with the people close to us that bring us so much pleasure and joy that we are never, ever going to get with an AI bot."

### **Try to avoid, limit or monitor teen use**

As for AI companions that mimic friends, the best thing parents can do is not let teens use them at all, Robb said. In Common Sense Media's risk testing, AI showed kids inappropriate content such as sexual material, he said. What's more, "they engaged in some stereotyping that was not great. They sometimes provided dangerous advice." A representative of Meta, which allows parents to block their kids' access to its Meta AI chatbot, declined to comment.

While 34% of teens in the survey said they felt uncomfortable with something their AI companion has done or said, Robb pointed out that teens could be receiving information that doesn't bother them — but that their parents wouldn't want them to see or hear.

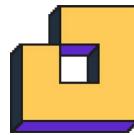
I certainly won't allow my kids to use AI companions before they're 18 unless the way they're programmed radically changes. I agree these companies aren't doing enough to protect kids from harmful content and data harvesting — and I want my daughters to develop relationships with humans rather than technology. If a teen is using AI companions, it's important to watch for signs of unhealthy use, Robb said. If teens prefer interactions with AI rather than humans, spend hours interacting with AI companions, become distressed when they can't use them or withdraw from their family and activities they used to enjoy, these are classic signs of a problem, he said.

### **Model healthy digital use**

It's also important for parents to demonstrate by example how to have a healthy relationship with technology, Robb said. "Show your teen what balanced technology use looks like," he said. "Have those open conversations about how you handle your own emotional needs without relying solely on digital solutions."

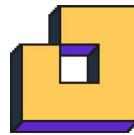
This new study indicating that most teens use AI companions shows why it's important to talk to young people about why they need real friends rather than chatbots to validate them. Technology can't replace humans — but it can explain why Johnson-Byrne's friends aren't close anymore.

Source: [Kids are asking AI companions to solve their problems, according to a new study. Here's why that's a problem](#)



### **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Companion :
2. Instill :
3. Eerily :
4. Satisfying :
5. Confiding :
6. Sycophantic :
7. Friction :
8. Disclaimers :
9. Perpetual :
10. Overreported :
11. Agreeable :
12. Validating :
13. Navigate :
14. Psychotherapist:
15. Nuances :
16. Intimately :
17. Stereotyping :
18. Harvesting :
19. Distressed :
20. Solely :



## Designing for the 1%: Here's what happened at the Paris couture shows

After a week's pause following the men's fashion shows, celebrities, editors and influencers were back in Paris for Haute Couture — where bespoke collections are shown and eventually sold to the world's wealthiest customers.

The official fall 2025 schedule felt lighter than usual, with absences from major labels like Valentino (the brand only stages a couture show once a year) and Dior (whose new creative director, Jonathan Anderson, was only appointed a month ago). Many houses are also awaiting official runway debuts from their new designers in September — among these include Chanel, Gucci, Balenciaga, Loewe, and Bottega Veneta. However, there were some bright spots.

### Margiela: A new chapter

Glenn Martens' first outing as the creative director of Maison Margiela was a formidable debut. True to Margiela's love for upcycling and reinvention, repurposed materials were given new life, including leather jackets distressed to a cracked, decaying finish. A bodycon dress was stitched from prints of moulding and wallpapers, with raw, fraying edges and paired with a papier-mâché-style mask. Several silhouettes were encased in rigid, transparent plastic shells, and veiled, sometimes with bejeweled faces.

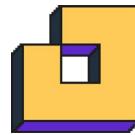
### Chanel's anglomania

Chanel presented its last collection designed by its in-house studio, which has been responsible for the French luxury house's designs following the departure of its creative director Virginie Viard in June 2024 and ahead of her successor Mathieu Blazy's arrival (he will present his first collection this fall).

Traditionally held under the glass nave of the Grand Palais, this season, guests were requested to enter through a side entrance into a quieter wing of the building. Here, the brand recreated founder Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel's original couture salons, featuring plush cream carpeting, quilted seating, mirrored walls, and softly lit interiors. A golden wheat stalk and a name tag were placed on each seat — including one for Lorde, who was seated alongside Gracie Abrams, Naomi Campbell, and Caroline de Monaco.

The collection drew from Coco Chanel's lifelong affair with British culture — especially the Scottish Highlands, where she first discovered tweed during her decade-long romance with Hugh Grosvenor, the second Duke of Westminster. Standout looks included a chartreuse tweed blouson paired with a baby-blue satin draped skirt; a black satin halter-neck gown cinched with a utility belt complete with flap pockets; and a double-breasted tweed coat layered over a tiered pleated skirt trimmed with lace.

"There was something incredibly graceful and airy... like a fairy tale... coupled with very structured shoulders," Caroline de Maigret, a model and longtime muse of the brand, told CNN after the show. "It was a powerful yet graceful woman — and it was almost goth sometimes."



## Balenciaga: A curtain call

Designer Demna (who only goes by his first name) staged his final collection for Balenciaga, ahead of his departure for Gucci. To mark the end of his ten-year tenure at the house, a plethora of famous faces turned up to show their support. That included Naomi Watts, Nicole Kidman, Alexis Stone (channeling Morticia Addams, complete with “Thing” on their shoulder), Patrick Schwarzenegger, Katy Perry, recently wedded Lauren Sánchez Bezos — even Demna’s successor, Pierpaolo Piccioli.

On the runway, Kim Kardashian appeared in a white silk gown inspired by the one worn by Elizabeth Taylor in the 1958 film “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” and paired with earrings once owned by Taylor herself. Also walking the show was French actress Isabelle Huppert, a longtime ambassador of the brand.

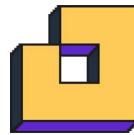
Inspired by the “dress codes of “La Bourgeoisie”, as Demna stated in the show notes, the collection featured polka-dot coat dresses with exaggerated satin lapels; a sculpted black leather gown with an hourglass silhouette; and a houndstooth ensemble referencing founder Cristóbal Balenciaga’s 1967 design, which was worn by his muse Danielle Slavik. Waxed floral prints — a nod to Demna’s grandmother’s tablecloths as well as his early work at Vetements, the edgy label he co-founded — reappeared in the form of a belted, floor-length skirt-suit.

## Giambattista Valli: an Italian in Paris

Italian fashion designer Giambattista Valli combined two milestones in one day: After being named Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres at a medal ceremony held at his headquarters, he presented his latest couture collection featuring voluminous sorbet dresses with intricately embroidered flowers and “colors you want to smell and eat,” the designer told CNN during the presentation, which he opted for this season instead of a runway show. France’s Minister of Culture, Rachida Dati, was in attendance.

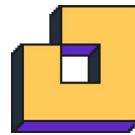
Of the award, Valli said: “It’s an extraordinary recognition.” He added: “It’s beautiful to be honored by a country that is half my life — a country that gave me a volume to my voice, that taught me so much.”

Source: [Designing for the 1%: Here's what happened at the Paris couture shows](#)



## Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Bespoke :
2. Formidable :
3. Upcycling :
4. Reinvention :
5. Distressed :
6. Encased :
7. Anglomania :
8. Successor :
9. Chartreuse :
10. Blouson :
11. Tiered :
12. Muse :
13. Tenure :
14. Plethora :
15. Channeling :
16. Houndstooth :
17. Milestones :
18. Voluminous :
19. Intricately :
20. Recognition :



## **Restaurant in China offers lion cub cuddles alongside afternoon tea**

Teatime revels in China now include hugs with lion cubs in a four-course afternoon set offered by a restaurant in the northern province of Shanxi, drawing widespread attention online and fueling concern for the animals' welfare. Customers cradled the lion cubs as if they were babies in pictures and video clips posted online on China's Wechat and Weibo platforms.

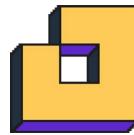
The Wanhui restaurant in Taiyuan city features llamas, turtles and deer in addition to the cubs on its page on Douyin, China's counterpart to social media app TikTok. Wanhui, which opened in June, sells about 20 tickets a day to customers looking to snuggle with the animals as part of a set menu costing 1,078 yuan (\$150), the state-run Shanghai Daily said on its official Wechat page.

"The service has raised serious concerns about legality and animal welfare," the English-language newspaper added. Reuters was unable to independently contact Wanhui. Online comments were mostly critical, saying the venture was dangerous and not good for the animals.

"This is for the rich to play," said one Weibo user. "Ordinary people even can't afford to drink." Another user urged action by the authorities, adding, "The relevant departments should take care of it."

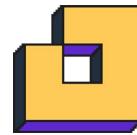
The incident comes just after authorities investigated a hotel in June for offering a "wake-up service" starring red pandas, state media said. The hotel in the southwestern region of Chongqing allowed the animals to climb onto beds to awaken guests.

Source: [Restaurant in China offers lion cub cuddles alongside afternoon tea](#)



### **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Revels :
2. Cubs :
3. Widespread :
4. Fueling :
5. Welfare :
6. Cradled :
7. Llamas :
8. Counterpart :
9. Snuggle :
10. State-run :
11. Legality :
12. Independently :
13. Critical :
14. Venture :
15. Afford :
16. Urged :
17. Authorities :
18. Investigated :
19. Southwestern :
20. Awaken :



## **Healthy babies born in Britain after scientists used DNA from three people to avoid genetic disease**

Eight healthy babies were born in Britain with the help of an experimental technique that uses DNA from three people to help mothers avoid passing devastating rare diseases to their children, researchers reported Wednesday.

Most DNA is found in the nucleus of our cells, and it's that genetic material — some inherited from mom, some from dad — that makes us who we are. But there's also some DNA outside of the cell's nucleus, in structures called mitochondria. Dangerous mutations there can cause a range of diseases in children that can lead to muscle weakness, seizures, developmental delays, major organ failure and death. Testing during the in vitro fertilization process can usually identify whether these mutations are present. But in rare cases, it's not clear.

Researchers have been developing a technique that tries to avoid the problem by using the healthy mitochondria from a donor egg. They reported in 2023 that the first babies had been born using this method, where scientists take genetic material from the mother's egg or embryo, which is then transferred into a donor egg or embryo that has healthy mitochondria but the rest of its key DNA removed.

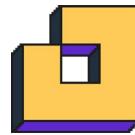
The latest research "marks an important milestone," said Dr. Zev Williams, who directs the Columbia University Fertility Center and was not involved in the work. "Expanding the range of reproductive options ... will empower more couples to pursue safe and healthy pregnancies." Using this method means the embryo has DNA from three people — from the mother's egg, the father's sperm and the donor's mitochondria — and it required a 2016 U.K. law change to approve it. It is also allowed in Australia but not in many other countries, including the U.S.

Experts at Britain's Newcastle University and Monash University in Australia reported in the New England Journal of Medicine Wednesday that they performed the new technique in fertilized embryos from 22 patients, which resulted in eight babies that appear to be free of mitochondrial diseases. One woman is still pregnant.

One of the eight babies born had slightly higher than expected levels of abnormal mitochondria, said Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell and developmental genetics scientist at the Francis Crick Institute who was not involved in the research. He said it was still not considered a high enough level to cause disease, but should be monitored as the baby develops.

Dr. Andy Greenfield, a reproductive health expert at the University of Oxford, called the work "a triumph of scientific innovation," and said the method of exchanging mitochondria would only be used for a small number of women for whom other ways of avoiding passing on genetic diseases, like testing embryos at an early stage, was not effective.

Lovell-Badge said the amount of DNA from the donor is insignificant, noting that any resulting child would have no traits from the woman who donated the healthy mitochondria. The genetic material from the donated egg makes up less than 1% of the baby born after this technique. "If you had a bone marrow transplant from a donor ... you will have much more DNA from another person," he said.



In the U.K., every couple seeking a baby born through donated mitochondria must be approved by the country's fertility regulator. As of this month, 35 patients have been authorized to undergo the technique. Critics have previously raised concerns, warning that it's impossible to know the impact these sorts of novel techniques might have on future generations.

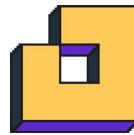
"Currently, pronuclear transfer is not permitted for clinical use in the U.S., largely due to regulatory restrictions on techniques that result in heritable changes to the embryo," Williams, of Columbia, said in an email. "Whether that will change remains uncertain and will depend on evolving scientific, ethical, and policy discussions."

For about a decade, Congress has included provisions in annual funding bills banning the Food and Drug Administration from accepting applications for clinical research involving techniques, "in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification." But in countries where the technique is allowed, advocates say it could provide a promising alternative for some families.

Liz Curtis, whose daughter Lily died of a mitochondrial disease in 2006, now works with other families affected by them. She said it was devastating to be told there was no treatment for her eight-month-old baby and that death was inevitable.

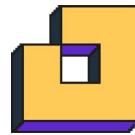
She said the diagnosis "turned our world upside down, and yet nobody could tell us very much about it, what it was or how it was going to affect Lily." Curtis later founded the Lily Foundation in her daughter's name to raise awareness and support research into the disease, including the latest work done at Newcastle University. "It's super exciting for families that don't have much hope in their lives," Curtis said.

Source: [Healthy babies born in Britain after scientists used DNA from three people to avoid genetic disease](#)



### **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Experimental :
2. Devastating :
3. Affect :
4. Mutations :
5. Seizures :
6. Embryo :
7. Milestone :
8. Reproductive :
9. Fertilized :
10. Abnormal :
11. Monitored :
12. Triumph :
13. Insignificant :
14. Regulator :
15. Authorized :
16. Pronuclear :
17. Heritable :
18. Inevitable :
19. Diagnosis :
20. Awareness :



## America was already losing to China on clean energy. Trump just sealed its fate

The new clean energy regime can be summarized in one incredible statistic: China installed more wind and solar power in a single year than the total amount of renewable energy currently operating in the United States. America was already laps behind China in the race to dominate the industry, new data from Global Energy Monitor shows. President Donald Trump's "big, beautiful," spending bill will secure its position as a clean-energy loser, experts told CNN.

The spending law Trump signed earlier this month knee-caps clean energy tax credits for wind and solar. Business leaders say it will raise electricity prices for businesses and consumers alike here, as the cheapest electrons on the grid (generated by wind and solar) become more costly to build and are replaced with more expensive gas. At the same time, pulling funds from the clean energy industry puts it on its heels just as it was looking to make gains toward more efficient technologies and better battery storage.

Meanwhile, China is currently building 510 gigawatts of utility-scale solar and wind capacity, according to Global Energy Monitor. It will be added to the eye-popping 1,400 gigawatts already online — five times what is operating in the US. In short, "the game has already been called," said Li Shuo, director of the China climate hub at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

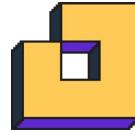
Wind and solar, bolstered by giant batteries that can store their energy, are also becoming an increasingly dominant force in the US, but on a much smaller scale. Renewables generate the vast majority of new electricity that's come online in the past few years in the US and make up about 85% of what is currently waiting to be approved in the nation's permitting queue.

The US had roughly 275 gigawatts of wind and solar operating at the end of last year. There are another 150 gigawatts of wind and solar planned for construction through 2031, according to the US Energy Information Administration — projects at risk with Trump and Republicans' bill that quickly phases out subsidies for renewables.

In the US, wind and solar developers are running into the buzzsaw that is President Donald Trump. Trump pushed forcefully to kill tax credits for wind and solar development in his signature law, succeeding in curtailing the credits and vowing to hinder the industry in other ways.

The law effectively cuts planned renewables additions to the grid in half over the next decade compared to projections without it, according to modeling done by the non-partisan think tank Rhodium Group. That will mean rising electricity prices in every continental US state, due to the price of renewables increasing and more expensive gas filling the gap, as CNN has reported.

Even with China's blistering pace of installations so far, 510 gigawatts of wind and solar currently being built is astonishing. Shuo said the number seemed a little higher than what Chinese analysts have projected.



Mengqi Zhang and Yujia Han, the two Global Energy Monitor analysts who authored the report, told CNN that part of the reason the number is so high is that Chinese renewables developers were racing to build out quickly in order to claim government subsidies that expired in June. "This is why the surge is coming before May," Han said.

Most of China's wind and solar farms are far away from its largest cities. But in China's capital of Beijing, the country's energy transition is apparent in another way – it is difficult to find a gas-powered car driving on the roads, Shuo said. Shuo recently visited Beijing and said nearly all Uber drivers there are driving EVs.

"All the drivers will tell you it just doesn't make any economic sense for them to purchase another (gas) vehicle," Shuo said. "Some of them told me that the fuel cost of driving an EV is about one sixth of an (gas)-powered vehicle."

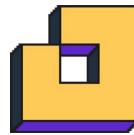
Climate analysts in China feel confident the nation has reached its peak oil use, given the dramatic uptick in EV use, Shuo said. But the outstanding question is China's power sector, and whether all the wind and solar the country has installed over the last several years can displace coal-fired power.

Over the few months, China's increased demand for power has been met entirely by renewables, meaning the country hasn't increased its planet-warming pollution even as it's using more power. "There's still a lot of entrenched interest to support coal, but overall what we're looking at is renewable energy eating into the share of fossil fuel power generation," Shuo said.

Meanwhile, in the US, more expensive electricity could significantly hamper economic development and discourage companies from building here, undermining one of Trump's own priorities. With less wind and solar coming online due to the GOP law, plus long wait times to get new natural gas plants up and running, Rhodium analyst Ben King said some data centers and large manufacturing facilities may struggle to get enough power.

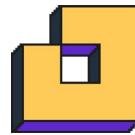
"Data centers, semiconductor manufacturing and other sources of new industrial load, that just might not be able to come online, because we may not have the generators to meet that demand," King said.

Source: [America was already losing to China on clean energy. Trump just sealed its fate](#)



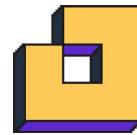
### **Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!**

1. Regime :
2. Installed :
3. Solar :
4. Electrons :
5. Gain :
6. Utility :
7. Bolstered :
8. Permitting :
9. Subsidies :
10. Curtailing :
11. Projections :
12. Partisan :
13. Blistering :
14. Astonishing :
15. Authored :
16. Apparent :
17. Uptick :
18. Displace :
19. Entrenched :
20. Hamper :

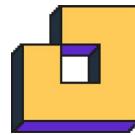


## **Answer Questions Below After Reading The Texts**

1. Based on the text "The hidden physical powers that help women outlive men": What is one of the biological advantages mentioned in the text that contributes to female longevity?
  - A. They have higher levels of testosterone.
  - B. They possess two X chromosomes, which provides a more diverse set of immune genes.
  - C. They have shorter small intestines for faster digestion.
  - D. Their bodies have a weaker response to vaccines.
  - E. They have a lower count of white blood cells called neutrophils.
2. Based on the text "Versace's legacy is more than just daring dresses": In addition to daring dresses, what other clothing item is highlighted as a significant part of Gianni Versace's legacy?
  - A. Leather trousers.
  - B. Majestic silk shirts.
  - C. Custom-tailored suits.
  - D. Graphic cotton t-shirts.
  - E. Fine wool sweaters.
3. Based on the text "As nicotine pouches' popularity soars, they're also responsible for more poisonings in young kids, study finds": According to the study, which product saw a dramatic increase of over 760% in causing accidental poisonings in young children between 2020 and 2023?
  - A. Vapes.
  - B. Gums.
  - C. Lozenges.
  - D. Cigarettes.
  - E. Nicotine pouches.
4. Based on the text "Nicotine pouches for your mouth are becoming increasingly popular. Here's why health experts are concerned": What is a primary concern for health professionals regarding the rise of nicotine pouches?
  - A. They are not strong enough to help people quit smoking.
  - B. They are significantly more expensive than other nicotine products.
  - C. They could attract a new wave of users, particularly young people, to nicotine.
  - D. They cause severe gum irritation after a single use.
  - E. They are only available in one standard flavor.
5. Based on the text "Dress codes: Why do brides wear veils?": In Ancient Greece, what was the "flammeum," or bridal veil, believed to do?
  - A. Signify the wealth of the bride's family.
  - B. Protect the bride from evil spirits.
  - C. Keep the bride warm during the ceremony.



- D. Act as a symbol of arranged marriage.  
E. Hide the bride from the groom until the ceremony ended.
6. Based on the text "Kids are asking AI companions to solve their problems, according to a new study. Here's why that's a problem": What is a significant issue with teenagers using AI companions for advice and friendship?
- A. The AI companions often give incorrect factual information.
  - B. AI companions are designed to be agreeable and do not model the friction and complexity of real human relationships.
  - C. The service is too expensive for teenagers to afford.
  - D. The AI companions refuse to discuss serious personal problems.
  - E. The AI companions are not available 24/7.
7. Based on the text "Designing for the 1%: Here's what happened at the Paris couture shows": The Chanel collection mentioned in the article drew lifelong inspiration from Coco Chanel's affair with which culture?
- A. Italian culture.
  - B. American culture.
  - C. Japanese culture.
  - D. British culture.
  - E. Russian culture.
8. Based on the text "Restaurant in China offers lion cub cuddles alongside afternoon tea": What controversial experience is a restaurant in China's Shanxi province offering that has raised animal welfare concerns?
- A. Serving dishes made from llama meat.
  - B. A "wake-up service" featuring turtles.
  - C. Cuddling with lion cubs during afternoon tea.
  - D. Allowing customers to ride deer on the premises.
  - E. Offering a free meal to anyone who can beat a llama in a race.
9. Based on the text "Healthy babies born in Britain after scientists used DNA from three people to avoid genetic disease": What is the main purpose of the experimental technique that uses DNA from three people to create a baby?
- A. To allow parents to select their child's gender and eye color.
  - B. To create multiple embryos at once.
  - C. To prevent mothers from passing on devastating rare diseases found in the mitochondria.
  - D. To increase the overall success rate of in vitro fertilization.
  - E. To ensure the child only has genetic material from the two parents.



10. Based on the text "America was already losing to China on clean energy. Trump just sealed its fate": According to the article, which country has installed more wind and solar power in a single year than the entire operational amount in the United States?
- A. Germany.
  - B. India.
  - C. Japan.
  - D. The United Kingdom.
  - E. China.