

How Much of a Feminist Are You?

What is a feminist? There are many definitions, some of them inaccurate and most of them disagreed upon. One common definition is, “The support of women’s rights based on the assumption that the sexes are equal.” With your partner(s), discuss the definition above. Is there anything you’d do to revise it? Rewrite it to fit your definition of feminism and write it here:

Take this rather subjective test to see how much of a feminist you are. Actually, no, this test isn’t the final word on whether or not you’re a feminist. However, it’s something you can learn from regardless of the result. Check all of the boxes you generally agree with, replacing any reference to the U.S. with that of your own country. Some vocabulary terms (not technical terms – either you know them, or you don’t!) are listed on the other side of the page. Go!

List 1

- ☐ I would be willing to give up some of my salary if I had to, so that equal pay in my workplace could be a reality.
- ☐ I believe that men and women should be equal.
- ☐ I can’t help but be bothered when a song includes misogynistic lyrics, even when I otherwise like the song.
- ☐ I know who Bell Hooks is.
- ☐ I can define intersectional feminism.
- ☐ I don’t use the phrase “hey guys” when referring to a group of people that includes men and women.
- ☐ I have taken a women’s and/or gender studies class.
- ☐ I think it’s important to encourage girls to pursue science and math as a career.
- ☐ Women should be allowed to apply for a job if they fulfill 60% of the job requirements.
- ☐ I think we should change women’s bathroom symbols to not include traditionally “feminine” clothing (skirts, dresses, etc).
- ☐ I believe trans people should be able to use whichever bathroom they identify with.
- ☐ I believe it’s important to encourage women to negotiate.
- ☐ I believe Jennifer Lawrence should earn as much as her male costars.

List C

- ☐ I am offended by catcalling.
- ☐ I don’t think women should get VIP treatment at nightclubs and bars, just for being women.
- ☐ I think police brutality and its correlation with race is a feminist issue.
- ☐ I think we should stop promoting models as the ideal female body type.
- ☐ I think we should stop photoshopping women’s bodies in the media.
- ☐ I have never called a woman bossy.
- ☐ I think companies should offer more child-friendly time and programs to women who are having children.
- ☐ I believe that a woman should be offered the same opportunities for promotion as her male co-workers.
- ☐ I believe that if a woman wants to pay on a date, her date should let her.
- ☐ I believe that women should have easy access to birth control.
- ☐ I believe that in a relationship the domestic duties should be shared.
- ☐ I think that a couple should have equal responsibility over the aesthetic and cleanliness of their home.
- ☐ I believe that men should be encouraged to be involved and make choices in the wedding planning process.

List II

- ☐ I do not think a movie should be released unless it passes the Bechdel test.
- ☐ I believe all genders are entitled to the same social and political rights.
- ☐ I can explain why “78 cents to the dollar” is not a fully accurate description of the gender wage gap.
- ☐ I believe that women who possess certain types of privilege are responsible for advocating for women who don’t have their level of privilege.
- ☐ If I had a daughter, I would encourage her to be anything she wanted to be.
- ☐ I would make it clear to my daughter from an early age that her identity should never be defined by her relationship status.
- ☐ I believe it’s important to compliment a woman’s intelligence over her looks.
- ☐ I believe that a woman has the right to choose what happens to her body.
- ☐ In an instance of sexual assault against a female, I am inclined to believe the assaulted person is telling the truth until proven otherwise.
- ☐ I can explain Marlene Dietrich’s influence on women’s fashion.
- ☐ I know what a “Bad Feminist” is.
- ☐ I believe that women should be able to dress however they want without it dictating how they are treated by society.
- ☐ I have never said that a woman “asked for it.”

List 四

- ☐ I believe that men and women have the same emotional strength.
- ☐ I do not think that it is the responsibility of a man to protect a woman physically.
- ☐ I believe that men and women should be equally encouraged to express their emotions.
- ☐ I have never asked a woman why she does not have children.
- ☐ I would be equally excited to have a son or a daughter.
- ☐ I think American workplace culture is often not structured in a way that is helpful or encouraging to women succeeding.
- ☐ I think women have a responsibility to help and encourage other women to pursue their goals.
- ☐ I think women are equally capable to men to be the President of the United States.
- ☐ I believe that women have no responsibility to make a conscious effort to always be friendly and polite.
- ☐ I have never criticized a woman for not wearing makeup or wearing too much makeup.
- ☐ I believe a woman is a woman if that is what she calls herself, regardless of her physical attributes and makeup.

Vocabulary for “How Much of a Feminist Are You?”

List I

“...can’t help but be bothered” (v. phrase) – automatically feel upset or annoyed

misogynistic (adj.) – showing disrespect towards females

lyrics (n.) – the words in a song or, sometimes, a poem

gender studies class (n.) – a university course that looks at how men, women, homosexuals, and/or transgender people view themselves and are viewed by society.

pursue (v.) – follow; participate in

fulfill (v.) – reach a level of ability, skill, experience, etc.; qualify for

trans person (n.) – someone who doesn’t identify with the physical sex society has marked them with (i.e., the person’s gender is different from their sex)

List C

catcalling (n.) – yelling sexual things in public to a person you don’t know (“Hey baby! Nice legs!”)

VIP treatment (n.) – special benefits given to people who are considered better than all or most others

police brutality (n.) – law enforcement officers being too violent with citizens

correlation (n.) – a seeming connection between two things

promote (v.) – uphold; advertise

Photoshop (v.) – use computer graphics to change an image, sometimes drastically

bossy (adj.) – apt to tell people what to do even though it’s not your job to do so

promotion (n.) – a move up to a higher level in one’s job

domestic duties (n.) – tasks in the household – cooking, cleaning, childcare, etc.

List II

be entitled to (v. phrase) – deserve

gender (n.) – one’s idea of whether one is masculine (male) or feminine (female) regardless of physical sex

wage gap (n.) – the differences in the average amount of money earned by two different groups

possess (v.) – have

privilege (n.) – advantage that a certain type of person has

advocate (v.) – argue for; ambitiously support

relationship status (n.) – an indicator of whether one is single, married, dating, etc.

sexual assault (n.) – rape, groping, and other behaviors done due to the sex or gender of the victim

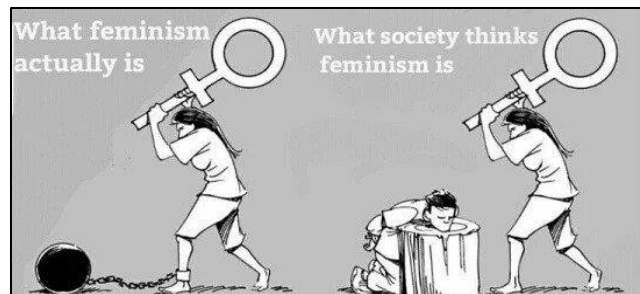
dictating (adj.) – controlling; forcing

...a woman “asked for it” (expression) – an innocent woman is to blame for something bad that someone did to her

List 四

emotional strength (n.) – the ability of someone to handle the stress of daily life and recover from sudden stressful situations

physical attribute (n.) – what someone’s body (or part of it) looks or seems like



Questions for “How Much of a Feminist Are You?”

1. Count the number of boxes in the survey that you checked. Divide that number by 50 to get your “grade.” For example, 50/50 = 100% (A+), 4/50 = 80% (B), etc. Are you surprised by your score? Why or why not?
2. English teacher alert! Some of the items are worded strangely. Some are vague (List I - “I would be willing to give up some of my salary...” How much? 1%? 50%?). Others are too extreme (List 四 - “...make a conscious effort to always be friendly and polite.”) Which ones would you change to make the survey better? How would you change them, and why?
3. Are there any other questions you think should be included on the survey?
4. This survey is from an American (progressive) viewpoint. Do any of the items seem progressive in your country?

The Video

Now that you've answered the survey and discussed the questions with your partner(s), let's watch a video in which six people – three women and three men – take the test. Look at the vocabulary below first.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1. be a part of the conversation (v. phrase)	a. ____ advise someone in private, as a mentor would do
2. confident (adj.)	b. ____ be involved in trying to solve a problem
3. desensitized (adj.)	c. ____ closely related; combined in a complex way
4. guys and gals (expression)	d. ____ flexibility
5. highjacked (adj.)	e. ____ invasive; not invited or wanted
6. "hot" word (n.)	f. ____ the male domination of a society
7. intertwined (adj.)	g. ____ men and women; boys and girls
8. intrusive (adj.)	h. ____ metaphorically, something someone thinks about all the time and is a huge part of their lifestyle
9. lifeblood (n.)	i. ____ metaphorically, stolen by an enemy
10. not the president of the club (expression)	j. ____ not affected by; used to
11. patriarchy (n.)	k. ____ self-assured
12. perspective (n.)	l. ____ slang for make someone angry
13. piss someone off (v. phrase)	m. ____ something (an expression) that is controversial
14. take someone aside (v. phrase)	n. ____ something you ask so you can fool someone
15. tense (adj.)	o. ____ somewhat, but not very, supportive of
16. trick question (n.)	p. ____ stressed; worried; anxious
17. unequal playing field (n.)	q. ____ unfair situation wherein one party has been given fewer advantages
341. wiggle room (n.)	r. ____ viewpoint; opinion(s)

Next, answer these questions:

1. Who got the highest score? Who got the lowest? Were you surprised at the results?
2. How does the person with the highest score feel about their partner's score? How does their partner feel?
3. How does the person with the lowest score explain why they got that score?
4. Which participants do you think are satisfied with their scores? Why do you think so?

You can watch the video for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3-YOOYOxEw>. You can take the test again at <https://www.buzzfeed.com/jessicamassa1/how-much-of-a-feminist-are-you?bfsouce=bfocompareoff&bfsouce=bfocompareoff>.

