

## Handout 2

### Using gender-neutral language

In your academic communication avoid using gender- specific language. For example,

- avoid the use of **man** where it refers **to people in general** (that is, both men and women)
- avoid suggesting that **a particular job or role** is filled only by men or by women when it might be filled by either.

**Work in pairs. Look at sentences 1-11 below and decide whether they are inappropriate because they contain gender-specific language. Make any changes necessary to the sentences that use inappropriate language.**

- 1 What consequences do they have for the way a teacher approaches his job and his training?
- 2 Ernest Miller Hemingway was born in 1899 at Oak Park, a highly respectable suburb of Chicago, where his father, a keen sportsman, was a doctor.
- 3 Throughout history, man has affected the natural environment, often in a destructive way.
- 4 One of the basic elements contributing to the urban housing problem is the difference in goals of landlords and their tenants.
- 5 In *The Climates of the Continents*, we have a book which should be of interest, not only to the student of climate and the factors which determine it, but also to the man in the street.
- 6 The daily life of a small shopkeeper struggling to survive had little in common with that of a prosperous businessman employing a number of workers.
- 7 Harkness and Waldfogel (1997) calculate the pay ratios for women with children compared to the average man.
- 8 Quite sophisticated equipment and trained manpower are required.
- 9 Bowles (2001) observed that his findings supported earlier research results.
- 10 In the intensive-care unit, it is imperative that the nurse must not allow her attention to wander from the patient.
- 11 Before entering the market, each consumer decides, on the basis of his income, tastes and alternative opportunities, the maximum price he will pay.