

## LISTENING

**1** Discuss this statement in small groups.

'Men don't know how to listen properly.'

**2** **1.2** Listen to two extracts about men and women communicating. In each case say who the people are and what the situation is.**3** Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1** What are the following books about?
  - Talking from 9 to 5
  - You Just Don't Understand
  - You Were Always Mom's Favorite!
- 2** What is the essay *Would You Please Let Me Finish* about?
- 3** What are the different factors that can affect conversational style?
- 4** What have recent surveys shown?
- 5** How long has May been married?
- 6** Why is May feeling sad?
- 7** How does May get on with her mother-in-law?
- 8** Does May interrupt her husband a lot?

## GRAMMAR

## THE PERFECT ASPECT

**4a** Look at this extract from the listening and answer the questions.

- M: We've had so many arguments recently and he has moved out.  
 R: Oh, when did he leave?  
 M: This evening. He phoned me from a café at 5 p.m. and asked me to meet him there after work to talk about our problems. But by the time I arrived at the café, he had left.
- 1** Is May's husband living in her house now?
  - 2** Did he live in her house at some time in the past?
  - 3** Who was at the café first, May or her husband?
  - 4** Were they at the café at the same time?
  - 5** What did the husband do before May arrived?

**4b** Look at the extract again. Which tense do we use when we want to suggest a connection between these things?

- 1** a past event and the present
- 2** an earlier and a later past event

**4c** Look at Audio script 1.3 on page 168 and underline examples of the present perfect simple, the past perfect simple and the past simple.

→ Language reference and extra practice, pages 126–149

**5** Seven sentences contain a mistake. Find the mistakes and correct them.

- 1** Tannen wrote many books.
- 2** In 2009, Tannen has written *You Were Always Mom's Favorite!*
- 3** Have you read any of Tannen's books?
- 4** When has this book been published?
- 5** I realised that we met before.
- 6** Is this the first time she spoke in public?
- 7** Last night there have been an all-women panel on the show.
- 8** When I arrived at the conference, the main speaker already finished.

**6** Work with a partner to ask and answer questions about the following topics. Try to develop the conversation. Use the words and phrases in the box.

Have you ever?      How long ago?      When?      Who?

A: *Have you ever sent an aggressive email?*

B: *Yes, I have.*

A: *When did you do that?*

B: *In my first year at university.*

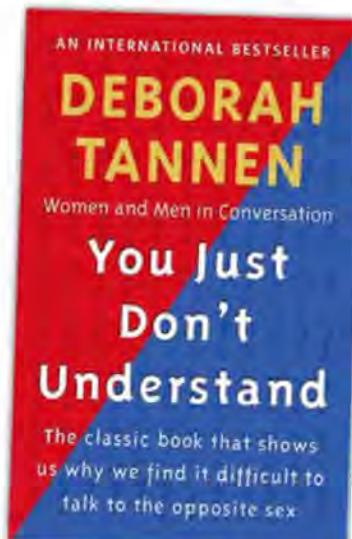
A: *Who did you send it to?*

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> send an aggressive email        | <b>5</b> have dream in which ...  |
| <b>2</b> raise voice in a meeting        | <b>6</b> tell lie                 |
| <b>3</b> interrupt                       | <b>7</b> write a difficult letter |
| <b>4</b> upset a friend when just joking | <b>8</b> use sign language        |

## READING

**7a** Do you agree with these statements?

- 1** Women talk far more than men.
- 2** Men talk about sport. Women talk about their feelings.
- 3** Women and men communicate differently.

**7b** Read the two extracts from *You Just Don't Understand* by the academic Deborah Tannen. What does the author say (if anything) about the statements above?

## Extract 1

## YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND

**'Put down that paper and talk to me!'**

I was sitting in a suburban living room, speaking to a women's group that had invited men to join them for the occasion of my talk about communication between women and men. During the discussion, one man was particularly talkative, full of lengthy comments and explanations. When I made the observation that women often complain that their husbands don't talk to them enough, this man volunteered that he heartily agreed. He gestured toward his wife, who had sat silently beside him on the couch throughout the evening, and said, 'She's the talker in our family.'

Everyone in the room burst into laughter. The man looked puzzled and hurt. 'It's true,' he explained. 'When I come home from work, I usually have nothing to say, but she never runs out. If it weren't for her, we'd spend the whole evening in silence.' Another woman expressed a similar paradox about her husband:

'When we go out, he's the life of the party. If I happen to be in another room, I can always hear his voice above the others. But when we're home, he doesn't have that much to say. I do most of the talking.'

Who talks more, women or men?

Women are believed to talk too much. Yet study after study finds that it is men who talk more – at meetings, in mixed-group discussions, and in classrooms where girls and young women sit next to boys or young men. For example, communication researchers Barbara and Gene Eakins recorded and studied seven university faculty meetings.

They found that, with one exception, men spoke more often and, without exception, spoke for a longer period.

## Extract 2

## YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND

**'Put down that paper and talk to me!'**

For most women, the language of conversation is primarily a language of rapport: a way of establishing connections and negotiating relationships. Emphasis is placed on displaying similarities and matching experiences. From childhood, girls criticise peers who try to stand out or appear better than others. People feel their closest connections at home, or in settings where they feel at home – with one or a few people they feel close to and comfortable with – in other words, during private speaking. But even the most public situations can be approached like private speaking.

For most men, talk is primarily a means to preserve independence and negotiate and maintain status in a hierarchical social order. This is done by exhibiting knowledge and skill, and by holding centre stage through verbal performance such as storytelling, joking or imparting information. From childhood, men learn to use talking as a way to get and keep attention. So they are more comfortable speaking in larger groups made up of people they know less well – in the broadest sense, 'public speaking'.

But even the most private situations can be approached like public speaking, more like giving a report than establishing rapport.

**8a** Read the two extracts again and complete these statements with M (men) or W (women).

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ like to stand out.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ prefer private speaking.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ often speak for longer.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ are concerned about their rank and position in society.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ like to find things that are almost the same between people.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ often don't say much at home.

**8b** Underline the sections in the extracts that gave you this information.

**9 Identifying stylistic devices** Look at the two extracts again and underline examples of the following stylistic devices.

- anecdotes (short interesting stories about a person or event)
- using questions to raise interest
- using contrast
- direct speech

## VOCABULARY

## COLLOCATIONS

**10a** Underline the nouns in Extract 2 which collocate with verbs 1–6.

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 1 establish (x2) | 4 maintain |
| 2 negotiate (x2) | 5 exhibit  |
| 3 display        | 6 impart   |

**10b** Complete the sentences using the collocations in Exercise 10a.

- 1 Many businesses have \_\_\_\_\_ with local universities.
- 2 Psychology students need to \_\_\_\_\_ of the differences in gender communication.
- 3 This book looks at the difficulties young people can have when they \_\_\_\_\_ with friends and family.
- 4 The Nordic countries \_\_\_\_\_ as well as differences in terms of culture.
- 5 In sharp contrast to the communication style of men, which seeks to establish and \_\_\_\_\_ and dominance, women's communicating is more equal.
- 6 Communication is the art and technique of using words effectively to \_\_\_\_\_ or ideas.

## SPEAKING

**11a** Work with a partner to think of three pieces of advice for men communicating with women, and women communicating with men. Use the information in this unit, and your own ideas.

**11b** Work with another pair to share your ideas. Choose the three best pieces of advice.