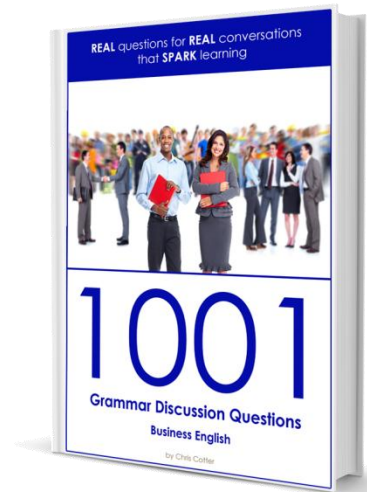
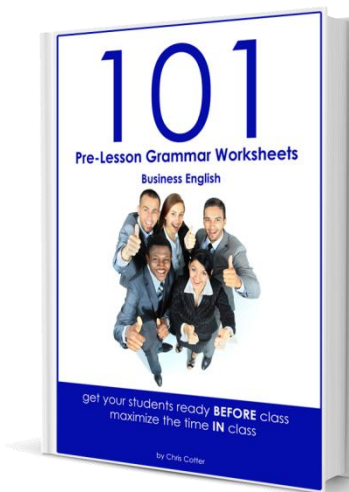
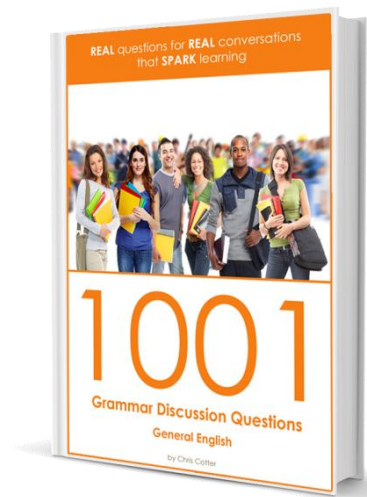
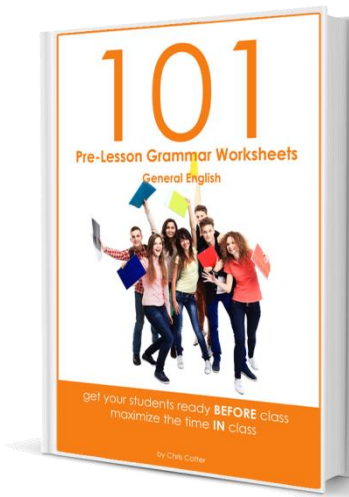
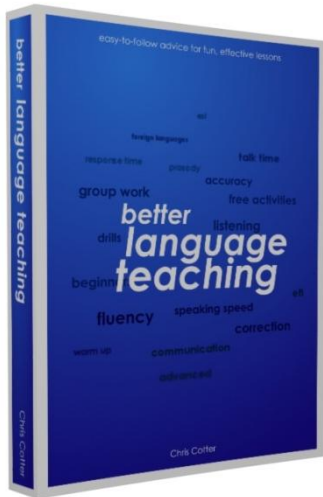


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Women live longer than men. It's true in most countries, and has been a well-documented fact since the 18th century. Studies have attributed the causes for the difference to work, stress, diet, bad genes, just to name a few culprits. But a new theory proposes something entirely different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a mate creates a lot of wear and tear, energy that may reduce a male's life span in the long run.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan, whose study appeared in "Human Nature," suggests that animals that butt heads, or birds with spectacular plumage, are examples of how males advertise their suitability to potential female mates. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads, nor do we necessarily fight for a woman's hand. Men instead compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the selection process. They advertise the male's proven ability as a provider, similar to the brightly-colored feathers of male birds.

But what of males with a lower economic standing?

Another study published last year stated that these single men, particularly young single men, are more prone to risky behavior. They take excessive risks, are more aggressive, and suppress emotions, serving as a substitute for wealth and social status.

Both studies conclude that just as in the wild, women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate. The survival and success of their offspring is at stake. All that energy spent impressing the females of the species translates into shorter life spans.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: **Define:** What does "life span" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "life span" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3: **Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "The Shorter Lives of Men Explained."

4: **Speculate:** Write in the missing words for today's article title: "The Shorter () of Men ()." Why did you choose these words for the blanks?

5: **Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

a.	Women live longer than men because they have easier lives.
b.	Stress from work is the number one reason why men don't live as long as women.
c.	Single men are quite aggressive towards other men when in a new relationship.
d.	When attracting a partner, money and social status is important.
e.	Older, successful men are desirable. (Or most women think that older, successful men are desirable.)

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: **Vocabulary match:** Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	attribute	q.	damage
b.	culprit	r.	likely
c.	propose	s.	too much
d.	wear and tear	t.	offender
e.	spectacular	u.	hold back
f.	prone	v.	suggest
g.	excessive	w.	children
h.	aggressive	x.	hostile
i.	suppress	y.	connect
j.	offspring	z.	wonderful

2: **Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	proposes	prone	aggressive	attributed	wear and tear
	excessive	culprits	offspring	spectacular	suppress
a.	Studies () poor diet for the shorter lives of men.				
b.	A few () are stress, diet, and bad genes.				
c.	A new theory () something entirely different.				
d.	Attracting a mate creates a lot of ().				
e.	Some birds have () and colorful plumage.				
f.	Single men are () to risky behavior.				
g.	Young men take () risks, like driving fast or smoking.				
h.	They are often more ().				
i.	Young men also () their emotions.				
j.	Women care very much about the survival of their ().				

3: **Define:** Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	attribute	c.	propose	e.	spectacular	g.	excessive	i.	suppress
b.	culprit	d.	wear and tear	f.	prone	h.	aggressive	j.	offspring

WORD RECOGNITION

1: Word Search: Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

proposes excessive	prone culprits	aggressive offspring	attributed spectacular	wear and tear suppress
Y S W Z Y M L U A W G Q B A T Q Q U T V D H J T E V Y U E O S S E R P P E D T A M G A E W E K E P F P B U R R I R B N G G V W C W B A T I D N A N G A N S I A I F C C B Y K T M I D I U H S G R E L U C A T C E S R P B B S G Q X T L E K Y B G P P L J Y E R W E P P E F N N S R Y O J I C E D D R R L K I F E G D O T L X S N A O I T R F S P R O P O S E S K O N T P O S Z O A Y R I H T I S F E S S P E C T A C U L A R V I W N C A L P R O D S M N R H E G I				

2: Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

proposes excessive	prone culprits	aggressive offspring	attributed spectacular	wear and tear suppress
successive press spectacular calf expect culpable suppressant offshore proposes attrition gesture prom culprit prim wear down prone specter prosper supper attributed aggressor suppose distribute off season proposing attributing excessive wear and tear spectacle suppression excitive primrose offstage propose wearable promise suppress aggression culprits attribute wearily cattle prods excess excellent offspring egress weariless spectator spring aggressive				

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Advanced

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1: Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	The life spans of men and women have been documented for hundreds of years.	T / F
b.	It takes a lot of energy for men to find a mate.	T / F
c.	Resources and social status aren't important in finding a partner.	T / F
d.	Older men who are married are just as aggressive as younger, single men.	T / F
e.	Women are choosy because they are concerned about future children.	T / F

4: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What are some of the reasons past studies have said about men's life spans?
b.	What do the two recent studies mentioned in the article say?
c.	How are human males like animals and birds?
d.	How do younger men compete with older, richer men?
e.	Just as men are no different than their animal counterparts, why are women also the same?

5: Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	attributed	c.	proposes	e.	spectacular	g.	excessive	i.	suppress
b.	culprits	d.	wear and tear	f.	prone	h.	aggressive	j.	offspring

6: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	It's true in most countries, and has been...
b.	Men instead compete for resources and social status...
c.	Another study published last year stated that these single men, particularly young single men...
d.	Both studies conclude that just as in the wild...
e.	All that energy spent impressing...

post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss (part I): Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	Do you agree with the article's findings? Why/not?
d.	Were you surprised by the article's findings? Why/not?
e.	What does the following phrase mean?: "Women: Can't live with them, and can't live without them."
f.	The lifespan of women has been decreasing recently. Why do you think this has happened?
g.	List as many stereotypes as possible about young men. With the list, do you think they are risk-takers?
h.	List as many stereotypes as possible about young women. Do you think they affect men's behavior?
i.	Is it possible to limit the risks young men take, or does it goes against millions of years of evolution?
j.	Why do you think young men take so many risks?

5: Discuss (part II): A new drug will hit the stores soon. It limits male aggressiveness, and is especially recommended for teens and twenty-somethings. List the positives and negatives with such a drug, then debate with a partner.

positives:	negatives:

6: Google Search: Type "life span" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

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Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan, whose study appeared in "Human Nature," suggests that animals that butt heads, or birds with spectacular plumage, are examples of how males advertise their suitability to potential female mates. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads, nor do we necessarily fight for a woman's hand. Men instead compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the selection process. They advertise the male's proven ability as a provider, similar to the brightly-colored feathers of male birds.

But what of males with a lower economic standing?

Another study published last year stated that these single men, particularly young single men, are more prone to risky behavior. They take excessive risks, are more aggressive, and suppress emotions, serving as a substitute for wealth and social status.

Both studies conclude that just as in the wild, women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate. The survival and success of their offspring is at stake. All that energy spent impressing the females of the species translates into shorter life spans.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

resources	economic	spectacular	culprits	conclude
proposes	excessive	offspring	documented	aggressive
suppress	mate	attributed	prone	wear and tear

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Women live longer than men. It's true in most countries, and has been a well-(a. _____) fact since the 18th century. Studies have (b. _____) the causes for the difference to work, stress, diet, bad genes, just to name a few (c. _____). But a new theory (d. _____) something entirely different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a (e. _____) creates a lot of (f. _____), energy that may reduce a male's life span in the long run.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan, whose study appeared in "Human Nature," suggests that animals that butt heads, or birds with (g. _____) plumage, are examples of how males advertise their suitability to potential female mates. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads, nor do we necessarily fight for a woman's hand. Men instead compete for (h. _____) and social status, two factors valued in the selection process. They advertise the male's proven ability as a provider, similar to the brightly-colored feathers of male birds.

But what of males with a lower (i. _____) standing?

Another study published last year stated that these single men, particularly young single men, are more (j. _____) to risky behavior. They take (k. _____) risks, are more (l. _____), and (m. _____) emotions, serving as a substitute for wealth and social status.

Both studies (n. _____) that just as in the wild, women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate. The survival and success of their (o. _____) is at stake. All that energy spent impressing the females of the species translates into shorter life spans.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

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_____.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan, whose study appeared in "Human Nature," suggests that animals that butt heads, or birds with spectacular plumage, b) _____

_____. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads, nor do we necessarily fight for a woman's hand. Men instead compete for resources and social status, c) _____

_____. They advertise the male's proven ability as a provider, similar to the brightly-colored feathers of male birds.

But d) _____?

Another study published last year stated that these single men, particularly young single men, are more prone to risky behavior. They take excessive risks, are more aggressive, and suppress emotions, e) _____

_____.

Both studies conclude that just as in the wild, women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate. The survival and success of their offspring is at stake. All that energy spent impressing the females of the species translates into shorter life spans.

STUDENT HANDOUT (notes)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	y	f.	r
b.	t	g.	s
c.	v	h.	x
d.	q	i.	u
e.	z	j.	w

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	attribute	f.	prone
b.	culprits	g.	excessive
c.	proposes	h.	aggressive
d.	wear and tear	i.	suppress
e.	spectacular	j.	offspring

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	T
c.	F
d.	F
e.	T

2. Fragments:

a.	a well-documented fact since the 18th century.
b.	two factors valued in the selection process.
c.	more prone to risky behavior.
d.	women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate.
e.	the females of the species translates into shorter life spans.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	documented	i.	economic
b.	attributed	j.	prone
c.	culprits	k.	excessive
d.	proposes	l.	aggressive
e.	mate	m.	suppress
f.	wear and tear	n.	conclude
g.	spectacular	o.	offspring
h.	resources		

2. Extended Listening

a.	energy that may reduce a male's life span in the long run
b.	are examples of how males advertise their suitability to potential female mates
c.	two factors valued in the selection process
d.	what of males with a lower economic standing
e.	serving as a substitute for wealth and social status