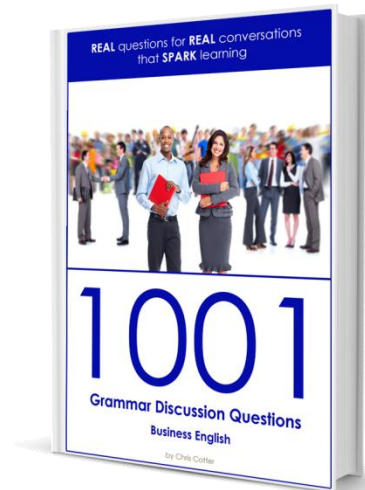
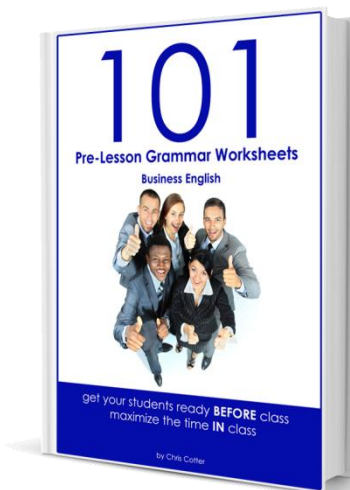
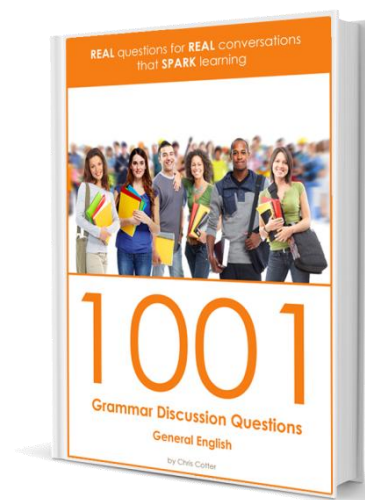
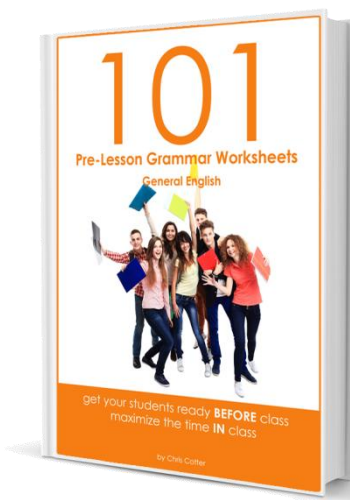
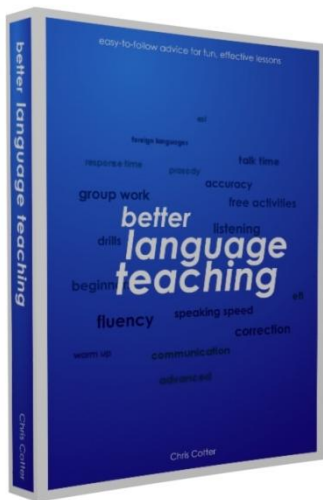


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Women live longer than men. It's true in most countries, and has been a known fact since the 18th century. Studies to discover the possible reasons have been done, and there are many possible explanations. Some reasons include work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes. But a new idea suggests something different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a partner takes a lot of energy, which reduces the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their suitability to females. For example, some animals butt heads. Other animals have beautiful feathers. Human males compete for money, property, and social status. If a man has money and social status, they show their ability to provide food, clothes, education, and so on for a future family.

But what about men with less money or power?

Another study explained that young, single men often take risks. They are also more aggressive and hold back their emotions. These actions have the same effect as money and social status.

Both studies conclude that women carefully select a partner, because of the survival and success of their children. All of the energy which is used to impress women means shorter life spans for men.

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 words and ideas for "life span" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

3: Title: Today's article is: "The Shorter Lives of Men Explained." What will you read about?

4: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. | Women live longer than men because they have easier lives. |
| b. | Men don't live as long as women mainly because of stress. |
| c. | Single men are aggressive towards other men when in a new relationship. |
| d. | When finding a partner, money and social status is important. |
| e. | Most women think that older, successful men are desirable. |

WORD RECOGNITION

These activities are optional. They reinforce vocabulary and increase reading speed.

1: Word Search: Find only the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

suitability	explanations	provide
impress	compete	reduces
<p>E E M K X E S T X S X U K T I G U X T B X E Q U H S Z Z S M J E A P X P N D W J P L U S P H W J T L L C V I C D I F E R M J Y G G A Q O S V T Q E R E F V I K L N N Q M A O T S P S D Q A Q H A R A B P E R P M E F B K T A T D I T P E X P I H K B W H Z O L S M I D E F I U T A B A Y I C O D E O Q T U G R Z O S T N C D I L K N L L K C X Q Y I S Y S R D D Q S N X D A N Q Y T I L I B A T U I S T W R E D U C E S W A U N A M R C W P P P R P T C O D U D C</p>		

2: Target Word Pool: Find only the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

suitability	explanations	provide
impress	compete	reduces
<p>explanation competing unsuitability reduction explanatory reduced unimpressed provide provision deduces competitor press competition impress complete suitability improve suite unexplainable explanations unsuitable provided suitable explain providing impressive reduces impressing compete reducing</p>		

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Lower-Intermediate

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to direct students before the article is read, or to check understanding after the article is read.

1: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer a partner the questions. He shouldn't look at the article when he answers.

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

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

3: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	According to past studies, what are some reasons men have shorter 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.	Why do women carefully choose a partner?

4: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence.

a.	It's true in most countries, and...
b.	Human males compete for...
c.	But what about...
d.	All of the energy which is used to...

post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to discuss the contents of the article.

1: Vocabulary: Circle any other unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand these words. Write an example sentence for each one.

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

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

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers and ask more questions with your partner.

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. | Did you like this article? Why/not? |
| b. | Do you agree with the article's findings? Why/not? |
| c. | Were you surprised by the article's findings? Why/not? |
| d. | The lifespan of women has been decreasing recently. Why do you think so? |
| e. | Is it possible to limit the risks young men take? Why do / don't you think so? |
| f. | 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 suggests that many animals advertise their suitability to females. For example, some animals butt heads. Other animals have beautiful feathers. Human males compete for money, property, and social status. If a man has money and social status, they show their ability to provide food, clothes, education, and so on for a future family.

But what about men with less money or power?

Another study explained that young, single men often take risks. They are also more aggressive and hold back their emotions. These actions have the same effect as money and social status.

Both studies conclude that women carefully select a partner, because of the survival and success of their children. All of the energy which is used to impress women means shorter life spans for men.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

reduces	because	impress	compete	suitability
example	provide	explanations	possible	carefully

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained

Women live longer than men. It's true in most countries, and has been a known fact since the 18th century. Studies to discover the (a. _____) reasons have been done, and there are many possible (b. _____). Some reasons include work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes. But a new idea suggests something different. Men have shorter life spans (c. _____) attracting a partner takes a lot of energy, which (d. _____) the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their (e. _____) to females. For (f. _____), some animals butt heads. Other animals have beautiful feathers. Human males (g. _____) for money, property, and social status. If a man has money and social status, they show their ability to (h. _____) food, clothes, education, and so on for a future family.

But what about men with less money or power?

Another study explained that young, single men often take risks. They are also more aggressive and hold back their emotions. These actions have the same effect as money and social status.

Both studies conclude that women (i. _____) select a partner, because of the survival and success of their children. All of the energy which is used to (j. _____) women means shorter life spans for men.

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

Women live longer than men. It's true in most countries, and has been a known fact since the 18th century. a) _____, and there are many possible explanations. Some reasons include work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes. But a new idea suggests something different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a partner takes a lot of energy, which reduces the number of years a man lives.

b) _____. For example, some animals butt heads. Other animals have beautiful feathers. Human males compete for money, property, and social status. If a man has money and social status, they show their ability to provide food, clothes, education, and so on for a future family.

But what about men with less money or power?

Another study explained that young, single men often take risks. They are also more aggressive and hold back their emotions. These actions have the same effect as money and social status.

c) _____, because of the survival and success of their children. All of the energy which is used to impress women means shorter life spans for men.

Sentence #1:

Sentence #2:

Sentence #3:

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1: Vocabulary Match:

a.	x
b.	u
c.	y
d.	v
e.	z
f.	w

2: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	explanations
b.	reduces
c.	suitability
d.	compete
e.	provide
f.	impress

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

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

2. Fragments:

a.	has been a known fact since the 18th century.
b.	money, property, and social status.
c.	men with less money or power?
d.	impress women means shorter life spans for men.

Student Handout

1: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	possible	f.	example
b.	explanations	g.	compete
c.	because	h.	provide
d.	reduces	i.	carefully
e.	suitability	j.	impress

2: Extended Listening:

a.	Studies to discover the possible reasons have been done
b.	Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their suitability to females
c.	Both studies conclude that women carefully select a partner