

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Mexican men get lesson on sexist language

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**  
[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**24th March, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

Mexico's government is trying to stop its male workers from using sexist language in the workplace. It has published a special guide that advises workers on how not to talk to female colleagues. All male employees will receive a copy of 'The Manual for the Non-sexist Use of Language'. It was written by a group fighting violence against women. The manual tells men not to use phrases like "If you want to work, why did you have children," and "You are prettier when you keep quiet".

Sexist language is common in most of the world's languages. Many English speakers object to how "masculine" their language is. Many nouns containing male words are commonly used to talk about men and women. An example is the word "mankind". This is slowly changing and people now say "spokesperson" and "chairperson" instead of "spokesman" and "chairman". Newspapers are often at fault for using sexist language. News stories often talk about "Mr X's wife" but rarely "Mrs X's husband".

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

## Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. stop its male workers from      | a. guide                 |
| 2. It has published a special      | b. to use phrases        |
| 3. how not to talk                 | c. against women         |
| 4. All male employees will receive | d. using sexist language |
| 5. a group fighting violence       | e. a copy                |
| 6. The manual tells men not        | f. to female colleagues  |

### Paragraph 2

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Sexist language is      | a. about men  |
| 2. most of the world's     | b. male words |
| 3. nouns containing        | c. common     |
| 4. commonly used to talk   | d. changing   |
| 5. This is slowly          | e. fault      |
| 6. Newspapers are often at | f. languages  |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

Mexico's government \_\_\_\_\_ male workers from using sexist language \_\_\_\_\_. It has published a special guide that advises workers on how not to talk to female colleagues. All male employees \_\_\_\_\_ 'The Manual for the Non-sexist Use of Language'. It was \_\_\_\_\_ fighting violence against women. The manual tells men \_\_\_\_\_ like "If you want to work, why did you have children," and "You are prettier \_\_\_\_\_".

Sexist language \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's languages. Many English \_\_\_\_\_ how "masculine" their language is. Many nouns containing male \_\_\_\_\_ used to talk about men and women. An example is the word "mankind". This \_\_\_\_\_ and people now say "spokesperson" and "chairperson" instead of "spokesman" and "chairman". Newspapers \_\_\_\_\_ for using sexist language. News stories often talk about "Mr X's wife" but rarely \_\_\_\_\_".

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

Mexico's government is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to stop its male workers from using sexist language in the workplace. It has published a special guide that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ workers on how not to talk to female colleagues. All male employees will (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a copy of 'The Manual for the Non-sexist Use of Language'. It was written (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a group fighting violence against women. The manual tells men not to use (5) \_\_\_\_\_ like "If you want to work, why did you have children," and "You are prettier when you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ quiet".

Sexist language is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in most of the world's languages. Many English speakers (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to how "masculine" their language is. Many nouns containing male words are commonly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about men and women. An example is the word "mankind". This is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ changing and people now say "spokesperson" and "chairperson" instead of "spokesman" and "chairman". Newspapers are often (11) \_\_\_\_\_ fault for using sexist language. News stories often talk about "Mr X's wife" but (12) \_\_\_\_\_ "Mrs X's husband".

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |              |                  |
|-----|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) tried      | (b) trying   | (c) tries        |
| 2.  | (a) advises    | (b) advice   | (c) advising     |
| 3.  | (a) got        | (b) given    | (c) receive      |
| 4.  | (a) to         | (b) by       | (c) from         |
| 5.  | (a) phrases    | (b) phrase   | (c) phrasal verb |
| 6.  | (a) beep       | (b) weep     | (c) keep         |
| 7.  | (a) common     | (b) commonly | (c) comma        |
| 8.  | (a) subject    | (b) reject   | (c) object       |
| 9.  | (a) usefulness | (b) using    | (c) used         |
| 10. | (a) slowly     | (b) slowed   | (c) slows        |
| 11. | (a) by         | (b) at       | (c) in           |
| 12. | (a) rare       | (b) rarely   | (c) rarer        |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

## Paragraph 1

1. Mexico's entneorvmg
2. in the crekwpalo
3. female euolgealcs
4. male emeyplseo
5. nicoelev against women
6. not to use hraesps like...

## Paragraph 2

7. Sexist language is mocnom
8. English speakers jobetc
9. nouns oncaintign male words
10. This is slowly ighncagn
11. Newspapers are often at ualft
12. News sitorse

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) used to talk about men and women. An example is the word "mankind". This is slowly
- ( ) changing and people now say "spokesperson" and "chairperson" instead of "spokesman" and
- ( ) to talk to female colleagues. All male employees will receive a copy of 'The Manual
- ( ) women. The manual tells men not to use phrases like "If you want to work, why did
- ( ) to how "masculine" their language is. Many nouns containing male words are commonly
- ( ) workplace. It has published a special guide that advises workers on how not
- ( **1** ) Mexico's government is trying to stop its male workers from using sexist language in the
- ( ) for the Non-sexist Use of Language'. It was written by a group fighting violence against
- ( ) stories often talk about "Mr X's wife" but rarely "Mrs X's husband".
- ( ) "chairman". Newspapers are often at fault for using sexist language. News
- ( ) Sexist language is common in most of the world's languages. Many English speakers object
- ( ) you have children," and "You are prettier when you keep quiet".

# WORD JUMBLE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist\\_language.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110324-sexist_language.html)

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. sexist male language workers from Stop using its.

---

2. a that published guide workers has special advises It.

---

3. copy a receive will employees male All.

---

4. women A fighting against group violence.

---

5. keep you when prettier are You quiet.

---

6. in Common languages world's the of most.

---

7. commonly are words male containing Nouns used.

---

8. are about commonly men used to Words talk.

---

9. "mankind" word the is example An.

---

10. language sexist using for fault at Often.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. SEXIST LANGUAGE:** Search the Internet and find more information about how sexist your language might be. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about a sexist workplace. Include imaginary interviews with men and women. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the author of 'The Manual for the Non-sexist Use of Language'. Ask him/her three questions about sexist language. Give him/her three of your opinions on how we can stop it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.