

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

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 been done, and there have been many possible explanations. There is the difference in work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes, just to name a few. But a new theory suggests something entirely different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a mate takes a lot of energy. And that loss of energy may reduce the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their suitability to females. Some animals butt heads, for example, or have beautiful feathers and decoration. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads. Men don't usually fight for a woman's hand either. Men compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the selection process. Accumulation of both advertise the male's proven ability to provide for a future family.

But what about males with a lower economic position?

Another study published last year stated that these single men are more likely to behave riskily. This is especially true of young, single men. They take many risks, are more aggressive, and hold back their emotions. These actions act as a substitute for wealth and social status.

Both studies conclude that women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate, because of the survival and success of their offspring. All that energy 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(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.	document	q.	whole
b.	entire	r.	choice
c.	span	s.	children
d.	suitable	t.	hostile
e.	selection	u.	report
f.	accumulate	v.	appropriate
g.	aggressive	w.	wow
h.	substitute	x.	get
i.	offspring	y.	period
j.	impress	z.	another

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

	substitute	entirely	impress	selection	accumulation
	suitability	aggressive	documented	offspring	spans
a.	The short lives of men have been a well-() fact since the 18th century.				
b.	A new theory suggests something () different.				
c.	Men have shorter life () because attracting a mate takes a lot of energy.				
d.	Daniel Kruger suggests that many animals advertise their () to females.				
e.	Men compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the () process.				
f.	() of resources and social status advertise the male's proven ability to provide for a future family.				
g.	They take many risks, are more (), and hold back their emotions.				
h.	These actions act as a () for wealth and social status.				
i.	Women are choosy because of the survival and success of their ().				
j.	All that energy used to () women means shorter life spans for men.				

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

a.	document	c.	span	e.	selection	g.	aggressive	i.	offspring
b.	entire	d.	suitable	f.	accumulate	h.	substitute	j.	impress

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.

substitute	entirely	impress	selection	accumulation
suitability	aggressive	documented	offspring	spans
F X I B Q P R E U D D S A Z S V B J N B V N S E O F S C S H X Q N W I T N T C H F E C E P A O V T I I N U O M W R U A C E D C R P E M Y F R L P M F V S T E S M E I U F X K M U U E Z L U U N S X Z S S S I L N V Y K C T X E G K P F F D A E I E O A X I V A N R H A F T V S D R H U Y T I L I B A T I U S Y T X Z D R S O N R Y S O C E S P A N S H J B G Z P Q N T R T A L M U C C A U O P S L S G S E L E C T I O N S C C N X G L Q T L V X R P U X H G Q I A				

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.

substitute	entirely	impress	selection	accumulation
suitability	aggressive	documented	offspring	spans
entitled accumulates impression spinning documents attire offspring suits selecting suitability aggressor documentation aggressively documented substantial impressive accumulate entirety cumulous substituted spins capability springs often impresses off stage substitute documentary preselect egress entirely spans impressed impress substitution unsuitable selection spun suitable accumulated accumulation spanned entire docked aggression aggressive selected substitutes off take				

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.	documented	c.	spans	e.	selection	g.	aggressive	i.	offspring
b.	entirely	d.	suitability	f.	accumulation	h.	substitute	j.	impress

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 have shorter life spans because
c.	Accumulation of both advertise
d.	These actions act as
e.	All that energy used to impress women

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 this list, do you agree that 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 go 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)

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 been done, and there have been many possible explanations. There is the difference in work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes, just to name a few. But a new theory suggests something entirely different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a mate takes a lot of energy. And that loss of energy may reduce the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their suitability to females. Some animals butt heads, for example, or have beautiful feathers and decoration. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads. Men don't usually fight for a woman's hand either. Men compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the selection process. Accumulation of both advertise the male's proven ability to provide for a future family.

But what about males with a lower economic position?

Another study published last year stated that these single men are more likely to behave riskily. This is especially true of young, single men. They take many risks, are more aggressive, and hold back their emotions. These actions act as a substitute for wealth and social status.

Both studies conclude that women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate, because of the survival and success of their offspring. All that energy 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.

spans	accumulation	another	energy	aggressive
example	because	selection	documented	economic
offspring	entirely	impress	substitute	suitability

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 been done, and there have been many possible explanations. There is the difference in work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes, just to name a few. But a new theory suggests something (b. _____) different. Men have shorter life (c. _____) because attracting a mate takes a lot of energy. And that loss of (d. _____) may reduce the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests that many animals advertise their (e. _____) to females. Some animals butt heads, for (f. _____), or have beautiful feathers and decoration. Of course, humankind doesn't butt heads. Men don't usually fight for a woman's hand either. Men compete for resources and social status, two factors valued in the (g. _____) process. (h. _____) of both advertise the male's proven ability to provide for a future family.

But what about males with a lower (i. _____) position?

(j. _____) study published last year stated that these single men are more likely to behave riskily. This is especially true of young, single men. They take many risks, are more (k. _____), and hold back their emotions. These actions act as a (l. _____) for wealth and social status.

Both studies conclude that women remain choosy when selecting a potential mate, (m. _____) of the survival and success of their (n. _____). All that energy used to (o. _____) women means shorter life spans for men.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare 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 well-documented fact since the 18th century.

Studies have been done, and there have been many possible explanations. There is the difference in

a) _____. But a new theory suggests something entirely different. Men have shorter life spans because attracting a mate takes a lot of energy. And that loss of energy may reduce the number of years a man lives.

Daniel Kruger at the University of Michigan suggests b) _____.

Some animals butt heads, for example, or have beautiful feathers and decoration. Of course, humankind doesn't butt

heads. Men don't usually fight for a woman's hand either. c) _____

_____, two factors valued in the selection process. Accumulation of both advertise the male's proven ability to provide for a future family.

But what d) _____?

Another study published last year stated that these single men are more likely to behave riskily. This is especially true of young, single men. They take many risks, are more aggressive, and hold back their emotions. These actions act as a substitute for wealth and social status.

e) _____, because of the survival and success of their offspring.

All that energy used to impress women means shorter life spans for men.

STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

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

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	documented	f.	Accumulation
b.	entirely	g.	aggressive
c.	spans	h.	substitute
d.	suitability	i.	offspring
e.	selection	j.	impress

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.	attracting a mate takes a lot of energy.
c.	the male's proven ability to provide for a future family
d.	a substitute for wealth and social status.
e.	means shorter life spans for men.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	documented	i.	economic
b.	entirely	j.	Another
c.	spans	k.	aggressive
d.	energy	l.	substitute
e.	suitability	m.	because
f.	example	n.	offspring
g.	selection	o.	impress
h.	Accumulation		

2. Extended Listening

a.	work habits, stress, diet, and bad genes, just to name a few
b.	that many animals advertise their suitability to females
c.	Men compete for resources and social status
d.	about males with a lower economic position
e.	Both studies conclude that women remain choosy when selecting a potential mat