

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 answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

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.

STEP ONE

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

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

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?

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

STEP FOUR

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

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	List as many stereotypes as possible about young men. With this list, do you agree that they are risk-takers?
b.	List as many stereotypes as possible about young women. Do you think they affect men's behavior?
c.	Is it possible to limit the risks young men take, or does it goes against millions of years of evolution?
d.	Why do you think young men take so many risks?