

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.

The Shorter Lives of Men Explained – February 11, 2007
Upper-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP ONE

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

STEP TWO

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

substitute suitability	entirely aggressive	impress documented	selection offspring	accumulation 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				

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

	substitute suitability	entirely aggressive	impress documented	selection offspring	accumulation 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.				

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STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

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. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

positives:	negatives:

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.