

Last name, first name _____

Questions before reading:

You will read text about the differences* between the men and the women.

* difference (N) – [defined in Russian]

1. Do you think that differences between men and women are important...

- ...in love?

- ☐ always
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

- ...in interaction with the friends of the opposite sex?

- ☐ always
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

- ...в работе?

- ☐ always
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

- ...in teaching a small child personal hygiene?

- ☐ always
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

(continued on the next page)

2. Differences between men and women can be according to **biological sex***. And sometimes they can also be according to the **society's*** ideas. In the article that you are about to read, the author speaks about what is more important: biological differences or the ideas about men and women in society.

*** biological sex* [defined in Russian]; society [defined in Russian]**

What do you think is more important: biological differences between men and women or society's ideas about what men and women are?

Now read the text and fill out the table on p. 5.

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Synopsis of the text:

Sex and Gender: What is More Significant?

Note: In the Russian text, new words occur and are glossed in the margins of the text.

[Paragraph 1] Traditionally, biological sex was thought to be the foundation for all social and psychological differences between men and women. But research shows that there are significantly more biological similarities than differences between the two sexes. Also, the differences between men and women that are usually named as significant (e.g., weight, muscle mass) and the typical activities of men and women are relative to the culture and society where the men and women live.

[Paragraph 2] Examples to support this claim.

[Paragraph 3] Hence the idea of *gender* came about. Gender is defined as the social and cultural norms that society prescribes to people depending on their biological sex. Gender norms are maintained via stereotypes and “labeling” of those who don’t conform with hurtful and often psychologically damaging appellations (i.e., a manlike woman.)

[Paragraph 4] From the moment of his or her birth, an individual becomes an object of a gender system, through the different coloring of toys for boys and girls, clothes, etc. The school, the family, and other social institutions maintain *gender norms*, or the norms of behavior according to gender. Those who do not correspond to gender norms are punished by hurtful labels. Furthermore, by learning what a “real man” or “real woman” are, children are taught how to behave within their *sex roles* – behaving like “a man” or “a woman.”

[Paragraph 5] Some people continue to believe that the human biology strictly determines masculine and feminine social roles. This attitude is called “biodeterminism.”

Adapted from O.A. Voronina, "Gender," in "Glossary of Gender Terms," <http://www.owl.ru/gender/010.htm>

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Gender, Sex, Gender Norms*

What is sex [i.e., sex difference]?	What is gender? What disciplines study gender?	How are gender norms maintained?	Give one example of sex roles for men and one example of sex roles for women <i>in America</i> .	Those who believe in biodeterminism think that ____?____ determines men's and women's psychological characteristics, social roles, and activities

*This graphic organizer is modeled on the "5Ws" organizer, "Overview of Common Graphic Organizers," in CobalTT [Content-Based Language Teaching with Technology] Graphic Organizers. Online at <http://www.carla.umn.edu/cobalTT/scaffolds/GO/PROTO/overview.htm>, viewed January 20, 2005.

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