

Last name, first name _____

Homework for Lesson 4, Day 1

Congratulations on successfully making it to Lesson 4, Day 1! You already know a lot about societal gender ideas and about what kinds of differences can exist between stereotypes and behaviors, as well as between different types of behavior. There is also another type of differences: that between the perspectives of different people on one gender-related subject. In this case, we will be dealing with two contrasting viewpoints of two authors of texts, on the same subject: women as managers/executives*

* **руководитель (М) – manager, executive [Russian words paraphrasing this concept]**

You will be reading a text from the genre of advice literature, with advice to woman managers/executives. What behaviors are most suitable for such women in Russia?

1. In this article you expect to read about... (check everything that applies):

- ☐ the differences between men and women
- ☐ gender norms
- ☐ the idea that for women it is necessary to be good mothers and wives
- ☐ assertiveness
- ☐ harshness
- ☐ stereotypical femininity
- ☐ the ability to adapt to the circumstances

2. What qualities do you think a good manager / executive should have?

What qualities do you think a good wife and mother should have?

Do you think one person can **combine/reconcile*** the behavior within their sex role (as a good wife and mother), and within their duties as a manager/executive?

*combine; reconcile [This Russian verb has both of these meanings]. (Note: this verb takes on the direct object in the accusative case) **[Russian word translated into English]**

3. You already know some facts about societal ideas about masculinity and femininity in Russia. Do you think that it is a significant psychological burden to be a female manager or executive in Russia? Why?

4. With two advice texts that we will be reading in this lesson, we will be using a Text Analysis Worksheet; you should have received two copies of this worksheet at the end of the previous period. The worksheet can also be useful for drawing ideas for your final presentation. For filling out parts A and B of the worksheet, you will need some expressions that we have not studied. Here they are:

Part A

- behavior norms = how we are supposed to behave in a specific society, social group or place. Singular: норма [norm] (F) поведения [behavior] (N, Genitive).

Part B

- means (N, plural) = ways of doing something (formal)
- to cite examples = to give examples (formal).

Now read the text. While reading the text, think of the question, “What do you think the purpose of this text is?”

Synopsis of the text, “The Woman Manager/Executive”

[Note: in Russian, new words occur in the text and are glossed in the margins.]

Paragraph 1. When women become leaders at work, they shouldn't lose their sweetness in daily interaction, nor should they lose their inherent femininity and kindness. Woman managers must not become dictators at home or at work, as many of them tend to do.

Paragraph 2. If a woman wants to continue to rise at work and to preserve her family happiness, she will need these very qualities: she should act in her natural role.

Paragraph 3. A woman in the position of power irritates an envious male colleague: she doesn't accept his suggestions and she crushes his sense of self-worth. Such a woman forgets about the women's tact and women's guile. No amount of professional knowledge can substitute for femininity!

Paragraph 3. When a woman manager/executive goes out to lunch with a man, whether it is a colleague or a junior executive, she should let him pay. Potential observers at the restaurant do not know the financial circumstances at hand, and if she pays, the man with whom she is out to lunch will be easily irritated by the woman who usurped his traditional role.

Excerpt from the article, «Женщина» ("The Woman"). The full text of the article is available on the site, <http://www.etiket.ru> at the URL

http://www.etiket.ru/man_and_woman/woman.html.

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5. Fill out parts A and B of the Text Analysis Worksheet with regard to this text.
6. Answer the question that you thought about while reading this text: “What do you think the purpose of this text is?” Argue your opinion by citing examples from the text.