

UNIT **12** *Read and Write*



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre las diferencias entre hombres y mujeres a la hora de discutir
- aprender a contrastar ideas en inglés escrito por medio de conectores como *nevertheless*, *whereas*, *despite* e *in spite of*.





The battle of the sexes?

Many books have been written in recent years about the differences between the sexes, such as the bestseller *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*. But is the difference between the sexes really so great? Psychologist Anita Winters certainly seems to think so in her article 'Interplanetary differences'. She highlights 'treatment of conflict' as one of the areas where the difference between men and women becomes most apparent.

Anita has found from her research that women pick up non-verbal signals much quicker than men. She notes that women are aware that something is wrong a long time before men have noticed there is a problem. Nevertheless, she says, when the signs become more obvious a man will react, and the speed of his reaction can often be quite surprising.

She also noticed that an argument with a woman can last a lot longer than just the verbal part of the conflict. Sometimes the woman will stop talking to the person she argued with because of her hurt feelings. However, she found that men react in a completely different way in a conflict. Men will argue to prove a point, so once the argument is over it loses its importance. A man can go out for lunch with someone despite having had an argument with them two hours previously. In spite of their differences, the disagreement is forgotten much sooner.

Anita thinks that the reason why men and women argue differently lies in their attitude towards conversation. Women often talk about their relationships with family, friends and colleagues, in order to build connections with the person they are talking to, whereas men use conversations to show their knowledge of a certain subject, like sport or current affairs. Therefore when a woman has an argument, she feels she has lost, to some extent, her connection with the person she argued with. A man, on the other hand, will put more effort into arguing but, once the argument is over, the bad feeling disappears.

Many people disagree with Anita's findings and other similar reports, because they see them as too simplistic. The debate about the sexes goes on. Meanwhile, men and women continue trying to communicate and understand each other as best they can. ■

1 Completa cada frase con las palabras *men* o *women*, según lo que dice el artículo.



The bestseller mentioned in the text is called **Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus**.

- 1 _____ often know there is a problem before anything has been said.
- 2 _____ react quickly in a conflict.
- 3 Arguments with _____ often last longer.
- 4 _____ argue to show they're right about something.
- 5 _____ talk to people to build relationships.
- 6 _____ talk to people to show how much they know about something.
- 7 _____ like talking about people they know.
- 8 _____ like talking about things like the news and sport.
- 9 When _____ argue, it affects their relationship with the other person.
- 10 When _____ argue, the relationship with the other person isn't affected.

2 Responde a las preguntas.

What is the title of the article by Anita Winters?
The title of her article is 'Interplanetary differences'.

- 1 When does Anita think the difference between the sexes is most obvious?

- 2 Which signs are women quicker to pick up?

- 3 Who reacts quickly in an argument?

- 4 Why do women sometimes stop talking to the person they've argued with?

- 5 What does a woman feel she has lost with the person she's argued with?

- 6 Why do some people disagree with Anita's article?

Words to remember

3 Escribe junto a cada definición la palabra del texto que le corresponda.

A successful book.
bestseller



- 1 Easy to see, obvious (paragraph 1). _____



- 2 Sounds or movements that tells you something without using words (paragraph 2).



- 3 To say or do something in response to another action (paragraph 2). _____



- 4 A person's emotions (paragraph 3). _____



- 5 People who work with you (paragraph 4).



- 6 The results of research (paragraph 5). _____

Contrasting ideas with linking words

Nevertheless (no obstante, sin embargo) se utiliza para contrastar dos ideas que aparecen en dos frases distintas. Normalmente va situado al principio de la segunda frase y seguido de coma.

They had a big argument. Nevertheless, they stayed best friends.

Tuvieron una fuerte discusión. No obstante, siguieron siendo grandes amigos.

Whereas (mientras que) sirve para contrastar dos ideas que aparecen en la misma frase. Cuando *whereas* aparece situado al principio de la segunda idea, siempre va precedido por una coma.

A woman feels hurt, whereas a man tends not to feel so bad.

Una mujer se siente dolida, mientras que un hombre no suele sentirse tan mal.

Despite e *in spite of* (a pesar de, pese a) se utilizan para introducir una idea que se contrapone a otra en una misma frase. Ambos pueden aparecer tanto al principio como en medio de la frase. *Despite* e *in spite of* pueden ir situados delante de sustantivos, de gerundios (formas en *-ing*) o de la expresión *the fact that*.

A man will go out for lunch with someone despite having had an argument with them.

Un hombre puede irse a comer con alguien a pesar de haber discutido con esa persona.

In spite of their differences, the disagreement is forgotten much sooner.

Pese a sus discrepancias, la discusión se olvida mucho antes.

1 Vuelve a escribir las frases utilizando la palabra entre paréntesis.

They had an argument. They're still planning to start a business together. (despite)
Despite the argument, they're still planning to start a business together.

1 The English team played well. They still lost the match. (despite)

2 Some people enjoy playing sport. Others prefer watching it. (whereas)

3 Prices are high. People continue buying. (in spite of)

4 The patient has lost 15 kg. She needs to continue dieting. (nevertheless)

5 We believe the company should change direction. The CEO thinks it should continue as it is. (whereas)

6 She felt ill. She went to work. (in spite of)

2 Completa el artículo con las palabras *nevertheless*, *whereas*, *despite* o *in spite of*.

A difficult balance: work and family life

The decision whether to pursue a career or stay at home to look after the children is a difficult one for many couples.

People who give up successful careers to bring up their children may find it hard to find a job at a similar level in later years, **whereas** juggling family and work can be highly stressful.

1 _____ the effort working parents put into both tasks, it is unlikely they will be able to perform either of them perfectly.

2 _____, the financial necessity of having two incomes means people often return to work soon after the birth. Some couples are able to leave their child with grandparents,

3 _____ others have to rely on nursery school. **4** _____ the difficulty of obtaining a place, this is not always ideal as one parent has to stay home every time the child is ill.

Another alternative is to employ a childminder, but this can be expensive.

5 _____, childminders sometimes help with the housework as well as childcare, and so may be worth the money.

One thing is certain: the situation has improved little in recent years, **6** _____ the continuing debate.