

Focus

- 1 Before you read. Make a list of traditional roles for men and women.

For example, Women: mother, nurse

Men: father, bus driver

Do men and women still do the same type of jobs today?

Read about it

Girls are quiet, caring and home-loving, while boys are active, noisy and ambitious. This was the traditional view up to fifty years ago. But women's roles have changed since then. Girl Power is all around. Pop stars like Madonna and All Saints are

teaching girls to be assertive and strong. There are women politicians, doctors and lawyers, women writers and artists. Young women are more confident than ever before.

It's great for the girls! But what's happening to boys? Now that women are earning their own money, men's traditional role of provider is disappearing: some women are choosing to bring up their children on their own and feel they don't need a man. Statistics show that boys are not doing as well at school as girls and are more likely to underachieve.

As a result, more young men are leaving school with few educational qualifications. This means poor job prospects. Young, single, unemployed men are more likely to become addicted to drugs and alcohol, get a criminal record and have car accidents than young women.

Let's hear what two teenagers have to say about Girl Power.

Naomi

“Girl Power says there are positive things about being female! Women want the same things as men - good jobs and money to spend. But we don't want to be the same as boys - boys are always trying to look cool in front of their friends. They don't share their problems and they don't talk about their feelings. Girls want boys to be more like them: open, sensitive and caring.”

Ben

“I think Girl Power is rubbish! It's just making girls more like boys. Girls nowadays are going out in big groups. They are noisy and act just like lads. I think they look terrible - I don't want girls turning into *ladettes*!”



A girl gang



caring good at looking after other people

active lively, full of energy

traditional something that people have believed or done for a long time

Girl Power a popular idea that girls can do what they want

assertive good at saying what you want

to underachieve to do less well than is possible

a criminal record a police list of crimes a person has committed

ladettes (*slang*) girls who go around in big groups and act like boys or 'lads'

2 Read the text again and answer these questions.

- a What is happening to traditional male and female roles?
- b Why are some women choosing to bring up their children alone?
- c Are boys doing as well as girls at school?
- d What problems are boys more likely to have than girls?
- e What does Naomi say about boys?
- f Why doesn't Ben like Girl Power?

Key language

Look at these sentences.

Pop stars are teaching girls to be assertive.

subject + *be* + main verb + '*ing*' + object

Boys are not doing as well at school.

subject + *be* + not (*n't*) + main verb + '*ing*' + object

These are examples of the present continuous. We use it to talk about things that are happening in the present, either at this precise moment, or in the present time period.

Compare

John is doing his homework. (now, at this moment)

Girls are acting more like boys. (in the present time period)

Now turn to page 73 for practice!

Talk about it

- 3 Work in groups of four: two boys and two girls, if possible. Read each of the following statements and discuss whether it applies to boys, girls or both.

- They are loud, active and ambitious.
- They like chatting on the phone to their friends.
- They like to look cool in front of their friends.
- They like going around in groups.
- They are getting more confident.
- Their roles are changing.
- They behave badly.

There are ... things I don't like about boys/girls. Firstly, they ...

Secondly, boys/girls ...

However, there are several things I like about them. To begin with, they ...

Also, they ...

Write about it

- 4 What do you like and dislike about the opposite sex? Make lists, then write about your opinions. Use the model on the right to help you.

Tune in

- 1 Before you listen. Work in pairs and make a list in English of school subjects. For example: History, Maths
- 2 Listen to this interview with Tony, a Science teacher at a North London college and tick (✓) the subjects on your list that you hear.
- 3 Listen again and complete these sentences.
 - a The college has got students.
 - b They have evidence that do better in Maths and Science in single-sex schools.
 - c Boys have a lot more confidence doing
 - d Girls have a lot more than boys.
 - e Boys underachieve because
 - f Some mixed schools have



vocational subjects subjects that train you for specific types of job e.g. typing, metalwork

single-sex girls only or boys only

mixed classes classes with boys and girls

practical activities tasks you do with your hands

apparatus equipment

to compete (with) to be in competition

patience the ability to stay calm without becoming angry or agitated

Key language

Look at these sentences.

We have got about 3,000 students in our school.

subject + **have got** + object

Our school hasn't got a gym.

subject + **have/has** + not (n't) + **got** + object

Has your school got a swimming pool?

Yes, it has./No, it hasn't.

have/has + subject + **got** + object?

We use **have** + **got** to talk about the things you can find in a school, town, house etc.

Now turn to page 73 for practice!

Sounds like this!

- 4** Listen and repeat these questions.
Try to copy the speaker's stress and intonation.

*Has your school got a swimming pool?
Have you got a gym at your school?
Has your school got a Science laboratory?*

Talk about it

- 5** Make a list of your school's facilities.
For example; gym, Science laboratories,
sports field
Then, ask another student about
his/her school.
Begin like this:

A Which school do you go to?
How many students has it got?
Has it got a ... ?
Have you got a ... in your school?
What subjects do you study?

- 6** Look again at the list of school subjects
you made in activity 1.
Which subjects do you think boys or
girls are better at? Why? Discuss your
ideas with a partner.

Write about it

- 7** Write a letter to your pen-friend in
Canada. Describe your school and tell
your pen-friend about the subjects you
study. Use the letter on the right as
a model.



Science students at an English
secondary school.

9, Elm Avenue
Brighton
East Sussex
BN6 5RG
20th July

Dear Tony,
Thank you very much for your letter.
It was great to hear from you.
You asked me about my school. Well,
my school is a mixed/single-sex
school. It has got about ... students.
We have got ... My school has also got ...
Unfortunately, my school hasn't got ...
I study ...
Write soon and tell me about your
school.

Best wishes,
Fiona