

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN DRIVING

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Part 1

1. What are two reasons the lecturer gives for his choice of topic?
2. The lecturer outlines what he is going to talk about in his lecture. He mentions the research question and statistical evidence. What other two points does he mention?

Part 2

3. What three criteria does the lecturer identify as possible measures of driving ability?
4. What statistic does he use in relation to men and women passing the driving test?
5. Why does he say driving test is not necessarily a good measure of general driving ability?

Part 3

6. In what way do statistics suggest women are better drivers?
7. What factors does he suggest are important to consider in any analysis of driving ability?

Part 4

8. Does the lecturer think the purposes of driving affect statistics related to accidents etc.?

Part 5

9. He distinguishes differences in the likelihood of the kind of accidents women and man have. What are they?
10. What research does he refer to in order to show men are more aggressive than women?
11. What were the findings of the study in Israel that the lecturer refers to?

Part 6

12. The lecturer talks about how research shows how the biological differences between men and women can affect driving behaviour. What does he say?
13. Why are men possibly better at parking than women, and what theory is this based on?

Part 7

14. What instinct tends to make young men avoid driving fast with a young woman in the car?
15. What is the theory about the car as territory?

Key

1.
 - a) He does a lot of driving and has seen how people's behaviour seems to change when they get into a car.
 - b) He wants to show how difficult it is to use statistics effectively without (unintentionally) being misleading.
2. He mentions a) differences in how women and men drive, and b) the reasons for these differences.
3.
 - a) passing driving test
 - b) car accidents
 - c) driving offences
4. A man has a 46% probability of passing the test, whereas a woman has a 40% probability.
5. It only lasts 40 minutes, and it is at the beginning of your driving life and tests your driving in 'unusual conditions'
6. Only 25% of accidents involve women, whereas 75% involve men, and 97% of the people convicted of driving offences are men.
7.
 - a) the age factor
 - b) the number of men and women drivers – are more of one sex killed in accidents because they drive more?
8. No, he feels there is not a great difference in purposes but there is a difference in the distances that women and men cover – men drive 50% further on average than women.

9. a) Men are more likely to have accidents due to speed and risk-taking behaviour, particularly on bends in the road, and
b) Women are more likely to have accidents at junctions and through errors of judgement.
10. Men press the horn three times more often than women.
11. Women feel more strongly about obeying traffic rules.
12. Researcher have found a positive correlation between taking risks and levels of hormone testosterone, and as men have higher levels of this hormone, it may mean men take more risk and drive faster
13. Hunter -gatherer background on men means they have more spatial awareness, e.g. judging speed of a moving animal. Women tended to stay at home.
14. The 'protective' instinct
15. It is related to the evolutionary theory of territory; in the past, men used to have land, and his car has replaced this as his 'territory'. This idea of territory may explain why males may become aggressive when driving, if someone invades their 'territory.'