MEN ARE FUNNIER THAN WOMEN

Men are naturally funnier than women. This is the claim of a UK male professor, Sam Shuster, who did some research on 400 different people. He discovered that men made more jokes about themselves than women, and that men’s jokes were more aggressive. He said three-quarters of male “jokers” made offensive comments, while most women tended to smile. Shuster believes the male hormone testosterone is the cause of men being funnier. He found that teenage boys were aggressive in their humour and this aggression changed with older men into a funnier form of joking.

Earlier studies suggest women and men use humour differently. Women tend to tell fewer jokes than men and male comedians are greater in number than female ones. Men also use people they know as the subject of their jokes, often in a negative way. Married men seem to like making jokes about mothers-in-law. British comedian John Moloney disagreed with Shuster’s findings. He said that in his 21-year career in comedy, he had never noticed that men were funnier than women. The difference is that if a group of women are together and the conversation decreases, they don’t automatically start telling jokes, which men do.

Adapted from www.newenglish.com

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. A scientist discovered that men had funnier faces than women.
2. The scientist believes male hormones make them funnier.
3. Research shows there are more male than female comedians.
4. Men dislike hearing jokes about their wife’s mother.

II. CHOOSE TWO OUT OF THE THREE QUESTIONS:

A. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS. (1 POINT) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Answer the following questions according to the information given in the text. Where possible, use your own words.

1. What are the differences between male and female humour?
2. Does the male humour change when men get older? Why?

B. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. A statement that is true.
2. Thinks that something is true.
3. Entertainers who make people laugh by telling jokes.
4. The period of someone’s life that they spend doing their job.

C. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

1. Write one word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as “pain” /eɪn/ (0.25)
2. Is the “-s-” pronounced /s/ or /z/ in “believes”? (0.25)
3. Is the “-ed” pronounced /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/ in “discovered”? And in “conducted”? (0.50)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1. This is the man. His job is very dangerous.
2. The engineer has repaired my television.
3. She gave up going to French lessons.
4. I regretted having hit the dog on the head.
5. I’m not as good at English as you are.

6. Write the correct question for the underlined words:

   The policeman knew where the thief was hidden.

   ... ?

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on ONE of the following topics. Specify your option.

- Do you think humour changes depending on sex or the country you live in?
- In your opinion, what do you think men and women do better?