

USING GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

In your academic communication, avoid using gender-specific language. For example, avoid the use of *man* where it refers to people in general (that is, both men and women). Also avoid suggesting that a particular job or role is filled only by men or by women when it might be filled by either. This is important because gender-specific language can imply (usually) male superiority, or reflect an unequal status in society. Try to use gender-neutral language instead. Make sure that you are consistent in a particular piece of writing. For example, if you use she/he to refer to a male or female student, don't change to he/she.

- a. Look at sentences 1-11 below and decide whether they are appropriate because they contain gender-specific language.



1 What consequences do they have for the way a teacher approaches his job and his training?

2 Ernest Miller Hemingway was born in 1899 at Oak Park, a highly respectable suburb of Chicago, where his father, a keen sportsman, was a doctor.

3 Throughout history, man has affected the natural environment, often in a destructive way.

4 One of the basic elements contributing to the urban housing problem is the difference in goals of landlords and their tenants.

5 In *The Climates of the Continents*, we have a book which should be of interest, not only to the student of climate and the factors which determine it, but also to the man in the street.

6 The daily life of a small shopkeeper struggling to survive had little in common with that of a prosperous businessman employing a number of workers.

7 Harkness and Waldfogel (1997) calculate the pay ratios for women with children compared to the average man.

8 Quite sophisticated equipment and trained manpower are required.

9 Bowles (2001) observed that his findings supported earlier research results.

10 In the intensive-care unit, it is imperative that the nurse must not allow her attention to wander from the patient.

11 Before entering the market, each consumer decides, on the basis of his income, tastes and alternative opportunities, the maximum price he will pay.

- b. Make improvements to the sentences you didn't mark as appropriate.