

## Real & Relevant English Conversation Podcasts

No# 39: Men vs Women

Pod People: Bren & Melissa



Bren: Hi, Melissa.

Melissa: Hello, Bren

Bren: The age-old debate: Men versus women. The oldest debate of all time.

Melissa: Well, women are better. OK, end of discussion.

Bren: Are men equal to women? Are women equal to men? What do you think?

Melissa: In society, perhaps not, but I think in essence, men and women are equal but that doesn't mean the same.

Bren: Hmm

Melissa: I think it's true that there are some things... in general obviously... it's true that there are some thing that men do better and some things women do better.

Bren: Ooh!

Melissa: So, we are not the same, but we are equal

- Bren: (0:54) So men are the hunter-gatherers, practical doing jobs round the house like fixing doors and women are doing household chores, washing up
- Melissa: Errmm... no, I think that's a bit...
- Bren: Washing up, ironing, hoovering...
- Melissa: Yeah, 'cause I'm great at all of those things.  
I mean they are the sort of traditionally assigned gender roles, yes.
- Bren: But they still happen don't they?
- Melissa: Yeah, that's true
- Bren: You can have like a dynamic yuppie couple and they're both like working in good jobs in the city and then they come home - who's gonna do the household chores?
- Melissa: Well....
- Bren: It's gonna be the girl, isn't it? Surely?
- Melissa: Often the girl is expected to do that, even if she's also working a full-time job. I don't think it's true in all cases. I have a friend who... she's married to this great guy and they literally split everything equally - household chores-wise: cooking, everything, which is great. Err, but I think it's true what you say that a lot of people still... still conform to the...
- Bren: ... stereotypes.
- Melissa: Yeah.
- Bren: Well, talking of stereotypes, is it true that women are much better at multi-tasking?
- Melissa: Yes, I think so. Yeah. That's not to say that men can't do it at all.
- Bren: I can't.
- Melissa: What? You can't breathe and chew gum at the same time?

- Bren: I do find that I'm better at doing things when I'm focussed on one thing.  
(2:13)
- Melissa: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
- Bren: And if I start trying to multi-task and do a couple of things, then I just lose the first thing that I was doing and it all goes to pot.
- Melissa: You can get more done if you do more things at the same time. No?
- Bren: Well, if you're a woman, maybe. If you're a man, no.
- Melissa: Ah, yes. I suppose.
- Bren: What about equal pay? Do you get paid the same as the male teachers, would you say? Do you know?
- Melissa: Yeah, I do, yeah. Maybe I'm just lucky, but every job I've ever been in, I've had... as far as I know... the same amount of money as every other member of staff, man or woman. So...
- Bren: But you often see these things in the newspapers about, you know, the woman in the boardroom, who's getting paid like, you know, hundreds of thousands less than the guy doing the same job..
- Melissa: Yeah, and I don't understand why that would be the case because it's the same job, the same responsibilities, its the same everything. So, what's the reasoning? What's the rationale?
- Bren: Well, there's the other thing about the tennis and they always have this at Wimbledon every year
- Melissa: Oh, yeah.
- Bren: About the women winners get paid far less than the male winner.
- Melissa: But then they play a different game. They play a shorter game.
- Bren: The play a shorter game, yeah.
- Melissa: Not a different game, but they play... less essentially.

- Bren: (3:36) The men have to play best of five sets and the women play best of three sets.
- Melissa: Yeah, exactly, so... maybe that's the reasoning that they give for reducing the woman's winnings, but why don't they then say that everybody plays three, or everybody plays five and then they...
- Bren: 'Cause women can't last that long.
- Melissa: Men have better stamina? Are you speaking for yourself?
- Bren: I dunno (don't know). What about when you go on the Tube (London Underground), would you expect someone to stand up for you?
- Melissa: No.
- Bren: I know this is like politeness and things. It's not really man versus woman, but erm, I just thought of this because I saw a woman on the Tube and she had a... she was... well, you couldn't tell if she was pregnant or fat!
- Melissa: Right. Ah, that's a problem.
- Bren: That terrible situation. And she had a badge on which was obviously given to her by London Underground staff... and it was like The London Underground logo and it said, 'Baby On Board'. So, it's an indicator to the male passengers, 'Yes, I am pregnant...'
- Melissa: But yes, also an indicator to the female passengers, 'cause I would get up and give my seat to a pregnant woman. I wouldn't think because I'm a woman, I have the right to this seat.
- Bren: But would you expect a man in the same carriage, sitting next to you, to stand up before you? Is there still the expectation in your brain, left over from days gone by of men being, you know...
- Melissa: ... gentlemen. I guess so, yes. Yeah, maybe. But then, if you're talking about helping people on the tube, there's been many times where I've been the one that helps a woman down the stairs with a...
- Bren: ... with a pushchair.

Melissa: ... with a pushchair. And, you know, strong, healthy, young men walking past without a blink. And me and, you know, the mother are kind of carrying children and bags and pushchairs down the stairs  
(5:26)

Bren: That's proof then that men and women are equal. Why shouldn't you do it?

Melissa: Because men are physically stronger, it's true. I said equal. I didn't say, 'the same'. It is true that men are physically stronger.

We really hope that you enjoyed the podcast.

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Bren Brennan