

Left Behind and Loving It
2008 Workshop Series

Gender Differences for Writers



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INTRODUCTION

This workshop was presented as part of Lynn Viehl's (aka Paperback Writer) Left Behind and Loving It 2008 Workshop Series. While I've tried to make sure that all the information is factual, please remember that I am not a scientist and make no claims to being infallible. This material is offered with a sense of fun as a help for writers in creating characters that behave plausibly. Also, please note that this information, particularly the sections on body language, pertains only to Americans. Body language can differ vary widely by culture and I don't want to see anyone get punched because they used a gesture that is innocuous in America but insulting in a different country.

Let's begin...

MALE BODY LANGUAGE

Men. They come in all shapes, sizes and attitudes, and you can't assume they're all alike. But there are a few common behaviors that you can use in your story that definitely shout "MAN".



MASTER OF ALL I SURVEY

- Men often stand with their legs apart, both feet firmly on the ground. This is a dominant posture. Other men will usually mirror it (meaning copy the same stance) in response.
- Thumbs tucked into the belt or top of the pockets, framing the genital area - used to show a sexually aggressive attitude.
- Head up, chin out, one hand holding the other behind the back - used by men in positions of authority
- Leg over the arm of the chair - signals an informal aggressive attitude
- Straddling a backwards facing chair - allows a man to dominate and control the situation, as well as shield his front from figurative or verbal attacks.
- Leaning back in chair, arms clasped behind the head, elbows out - signals intent to intimidate or a state of relaxation. It's also used as a "know-it-all" gesture and a territorial sign - "I own this chair/area."

UH, I'M NOT SURE...

In stressful situations, men will hold both hands in front of themselves in the protective "Broken Zipper" position.

An anxious or self-conscious man will:

- adjust the band on his watch
- check the contents of his wallet

- clasp or rub his hands together
- play with a button on his cuff or use any gesture that lets his arms cross in front of his body

BABY, YOU LOOK GOOD...

When approaching or near a woman he's interested in, a man may use the following signals:

- Preening behavior - straightens his tie, smooths his collar, brushes imaginary dust from his shoulder, touches his cufflinks or watch, rearranges his shirt, coat and other clothing
- Thumbs in Belt gesture - highlights crotch area and emphasizes his sexuality
- Turns body toward her, will shift stance until his foot points toward her
- Uses an intimate gaze and holds her gaze longer than usual
- When seated or leaning against a wall, may spread his legs to display his crotch
- Crotch Adjust - any movement that "adjusts" this area
- Wearing a tie to one side and a little lint on one shoulder - any woman who finds him attractive can't resist straightening the tie and brushing off the lint
- May mirror a woman's gestures or posture (a man mirroring a woman is only done when he is in courtship mode)

BACK OFF, DUDE...

Men fear attack from the front and are more wary of a frontal approach. Never stand front-on with a male you have just met. He perceives it as aggression from a man and sexual interest from a woman. For a friendly start to the conversation, approach from the side.

UH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Men can make fewer than a third of the facial expressions a woman can make due to how their brain is programmed to express emotion. Men usually hold expressionless faces, especially in public, because of the evolutionary need to withhold emotion to stave off possible attack from strangers and to appear to be in control of their emotions.

CAN I BUM A SMOKE?

Smoking is becoming a lot less common these days as new laws continue to restrict where smokers can indulge their habit. If one of your male characters smokes, here are some things to keep in mind:

- When men smoke they keep their wrist straight to avoid looking effeminate and drop their smoking hand down below chest level after they puff, keeping the front of the body protected at all times.
- Men hold the smoke in their lungs longer.

- Men commonly use the Pinch Hold, keeping the cigarette hidden inside the palm.

These suggestions should give you a place to start when portraying a male character's behavior. Keep in mind that all men are not the same (duh, right?) so use these as general guidelines.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

Kaitlin: "The one aspect of male bonding I've always found interesting was the man clasp. The guys grab hands like they're going to shake and hold that grasp as they lean in and hug (kind of). Hard to describe, but I'm sure you all know what I mean. I find it interesting that even though the men are hugging, they're still holding the other's hand as if to keep them from stabbing them in the back (so to speak)."

Lavern: "I read about a potter who studied how people hold cups so he could design better handles for his cups. Men usually hold cups/mugs with their thumbs on top of the handle and grasp it so they have to raise their elbow as they drink. Women and elderly or sick men tend to hold cups/mugs with their thumbs toward them and lift only their forearms while holding their elbows close to their bodies."

Suelder: "One thing I've noticed is that guys will roll their shoulders, where gals won't. It can be when they're uncomfortable and avoiding eye contact or it can be in place of a shrug."

Karen: "I was watching an episode of BONES when the psychologist Booth was seeing pointed out the reason for his large, fancy belt buckles. Booth was subconsciously attracting attention to his groin area. LOL!"

Cats: "There is also that part of men's body language that says "best friends" or "pals": mutual shoulder clapping, or even hugging (among younger men in their early twenties), which is most of the time accompanied by vibrant, active body movements. It reminds me of football players hugging after a goal. Maybe the action level is used to indicate that, while being affectionate, they aren't effeminate?"

Older men seem much more restricted about showing their emotions – not only in their facial expressions."

FEMALE BODY LANGUAGE

Women. Sugar and spice and everything nice... Well, I'd like to think so, since I am one. And as a woman, I think we're pretty easy to understand. But if you're a man trying to write a female character, it may not be so easy. Here are some tips on how women behave (in general, mind you) to get you started.



HI, HOW ARE YOU?

- Women smile far more than men in both social and business situations.
- Women are four times more likely to touch another woman than a man is to touch another man. This can mean touching on the hand, arm, shoulder, hugging, etc.
- Women stand slightly closer to one another, face each other more, and touch more than men do with other men.
- Women who want to draw attention to themselves put their hands on their hips combined with a pelvic tilt. May also put just one hand on the hip and gesture with the other.
- Women are four times more likely to mirror another woman (copy her gestures or body posture) than a man is to mirror another man. Women also mirror men's body language (whereas men don't mirror women, unless they're attracted to her).

YOU WANT ME TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO HOW MANY PEOPLE?

- In stressful situations, women may cross one arm across the body to hold or touch the other arm as if she is hugging herself.
- Anxious or self-conscious women use their handbags or purses to cross their arms in front of her body.
- Shy and timid women will cross their legs and then wrap the foot of the top leg around behind the other so her legs are entwined.

Wow, HE'S HOT...

- Women laugh at men they're attracted to, his jokes or witty comments. (Not AT him, like he's ridiculous.)
- Women tend to keep their arms more open when they are around men they find attractive. (And are likely to fold their arms across their breasts around aggressive or unattractive men.)
- A woman will place one hand on top of the other and rest her face upon it, presenting her face to a man to attract his attention and for him to admire it. (This usually occurs when the woman is seated at a table or desk and has something to rest her elbows on.)

OTHER SIGNALS THAT SHE IS INTERESTED:

- Head toss and hair flick back over the shoulders or away from the face
- Wet lips and pouting mouth, slightly open
- Self-touching, like stroking thigh, neck or throat
- Limp wrist as submission signal (also signals vulnerability and arouses a man's protective instincts)
- Fondling a cylindrical object, like a pen, pencil, lipstick case, etc.
- Exposed wrists--sign of vulnerability. May be combined with hair flick or toying with an object.
- Sideways glance over raised shoulder
- Rolling hips when she walks
- Pelvic tilt - emphasizes waist to hip ratio (a waist that is 70% of the hip size is most attractive to men)

- Handbag in close proximity to the man - A woman's purse is a personal item that's treated by her as almost an extension of her body. If she finds him attractive she may slowly fondle and caress her handbag, ask him to pass it to her or retrieve something from it.
- Knee point - leg tucked under the other and points to the person she finds most interesting
- Shoe fondle - dangling the shoe on the end of the foot and thrusts foot in and out of it
- Leg twine - one leg crossed over the other and pressed against it
- A woman will constantly cross and uncross her legs when she's with a man she fancies-to draw attention to her legs

HELLO, IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU

Women fear attack from behind and are wary of approaches from the rear. If you're approaching a woman for the first time, walk towards her from the front or side, not from behind.

DO YOU HAVE A LIGHT?

- When women smoke they will often hold the cigarette high with their wrist bent back in a wrist display gesture, leaving the front of the body open.
- If she is with a man that she is interested in, she may ask him for a light and then lean forward and touch his hand as he lights her cigarette. The act of lighting gives her a reason to touch him, another courtship signal.
- Twice as many women smoke as men, but they don't hold the smoke in their lungs as long as men.

And those are some general behaviors that you can use for women in your story. Keep in mind that these are general behaviors. Some women will use them consciously and deliberately (Marilyn Monroe knew all the courtship signals and used them frequently). Other women may use only a few and quite inexpertly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

Cats: "What I notice again and again is that women, especially when nervous, tend to use less space. They place their feet close together and do the hip tilt - which is not very helpful if they are about to deliver a speech and want to appear competent.

Being nervous can also cause the voice to go up at the end of a sentence instead of down, so that a statement might sound like a question. This can be the case for men or women, but I notice it more in women. It usually gets better when the nervousness wears off a little.

I absolutely second the touching ratio! It's much easier for women to touch in public without getting frowned upon. And for women, touching is about connecting (to either gender), whereas for men in public, touching someone is about demonstrating dominance mostly - like putting your left hand on the other person's arm or shoulder when all you do is shake hands.

This is of course different when a man touches someone in the context of a relationship. But even there, men tend to have their arm around a woman, protecting her, while women tend to tuck themselves into the arms of a man or walk with hocked arms. When handholding, it is often the man's hand that covers the woman's hand. (Funny that this never worked for me. I hate it when my hand is the lower one. *g*) It's still a bit of the old "You Tarzan, me Jane", isn't it? *g*

Suelder: "Women use body language with other women to include or exclude them from a group. I've observed groups of women open or close when a new woman shows up.

I haven't seen this nearly as much with groups of men, but I'm not sure whether that's because they don't do it or they do it less noticeably."

Rachel Green: "We look at each other's eyes a lot too."

Kaitlin: "Women also tend to talk a gazillion times more than men. I don't know about any of the rest of the ladies on here, but when I'm attracted to a guy I tend to talk too much, too fast and without taking a breather....might be why I've been single for so long. LOL"

MALE SPEECH

Many women would tell you there is no such thing as Male Speech Patterns. Getting a man to talk at all can be rare, as many wives might say. Men do talk, they just talk less than women do. And the words they use can be different, as well.



WORDS MEN USE

- Men use words like "want"-- demands and commands, rather than requests.
- Men prefer so-called determiners - - "a," "the," "that," "these" -- along with numbers.
- Men use more qualifiers, like "very, a lot, a little, a little bit, more and some."
- Men slur words together. "I hafta gota the store".
- Men tend to be more blunt and to the point. No superfluous words or phrases. Nothing extra.
- Their dialogue is always action or goal oriented. They don't wait for stuff to happen to them. If they see a problem, their first instinct is to go DO SOMETHING to fix it.
- Will use sports and business metaphors in their conversation.

TALKING HABITS

- Men tend to talk more than women in public situations
- Men are more likely to look away from each other while talking.
- Men are more likely to listen silently when other men are talking with no sounds or murmurs to encourage the other man to keep talking
- Men are more inclined to debate during a conversation
- Men use conversation to negotiate status in the group and keep people from pushing him around; to preserve his independence

TOOLS MEN USE FOR GAINING AN AUDIENCE AND CONTROL OF THE CONVERSATION:

- Interrupting another speaker
- More likely to challenge or dispute what other people say
- More likely to ignore others
- Males tend to interact in more crude ways also. While in a group situation narratives such as jokes and stories are highly valued, especially when they are well performed for an audience.

TOPICS OF CONVERSATION

- The male verbal strategy is to divulge as few personal details as possible, while assiduously avoiding all expressions of emotion that could be interpreted as weakness.
- Rarely talk about their personal relationships and feelings but may compete to prove themselves better informed about current affairs, travel, sports, etc..
- Topics change often in a group of men and the men may try to establish a reasonably stable hierarchy, with some men dominating conversation and others talking very little.
- Often seek straightforward solutions to problems and useful advice
- Men usually monologue at each other and at women. It's not an exchange of ideas; it's a competition.

Does it sound like men are inconsiderate conversational partners? They're not. Their brains and biochemistry are just wired a certain way (which we'll talk about in a couple of days) and that biology helps to promote their conversational habits. Try using some of these suggestions for your next male character to give him a brush of typical male conversation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

Margaret Yang: "When men debate topics like sports or current events, it isn't personal. You think this, I think this, I'm going to try to change your mind. Emotion doesn't seem to come into it much.

As a woman listening to these conversations, sometimes I get so uncomfortable I have to leave the room.

Annie: "I was told by a creative writing professor that only woman said except. Example: "I want everything on my sub except hot peppers."

Rachel Green: "I have to add that men generally use pointing gestures more than women, who tend toward open hands."

Karen T: "I'm surprised about men using more qualifiers. Qualifiers seem to weaken sentences, but I suppose their usage could be seen as increasing the power of whatever point he's trying to make. Sort of like making everything bigger and better. Yeah, very competitive."

Jessica De Milo: "I find that older men look me in the eyes/face more than younger ones do. I have also noticed that the lack of encouraging mummings seems truer of heterosexual men than homosexual."

And the bit about ignoring others for control of conversation is especially true of my college professors - female instructors will steer a discussion back on topic by acknowledging a student's thoughts and telling that student the discussion needs to move on or go a different direction etc, while male instructors will either turn back to the board or to another student for new information or another topic."

Cats: "I noticed also that men tend to speak more about their achievements; they call it confidence and it's part of being competitive in a friendly way. Whereas in groups of women, competition is simply not done, if you want to play nice. There is a book by Deborah Tannen that gives interesting insights into the dynamics of gender differences: You Just Don't Understand.

Men also concentrate more on the facts and figures and tend not to get the hints about the relationship and the emotions. When you tell them about a problem, they often go into a problem solving mode - even if a woman simply wants them to listen."

Angelica: "And on male speech, I have a big brother who usually brings his friends home. The thing about "not personal" really shows when they speak! They insult each other all the time, in a friendly way."

FEMALE SPEECH

Women are the great talkers of the world. We can talk at length on most any subject (whether we know much about it or not) or on nothing at all... for hours. Let's look at some of our speech habits.

WORDS WOMEN USE

- Women use more pronouns like "I, you and she".
- Women also speak inclusively with words such as "you" and "we".
- Women tend to hint more (use gentler speech - talk around what they really mean).
- Women say they "would like" something.



"Would like" states a preference, not a demand, just in case someone disagrees with what the woman is saying. (I've noticed that I do this a lot in the drive-thru lane!)

- A woman might say, "I have to go to the store." Or even more, she might say, "I ought to." (Whereas a man would say, "I'm going to the store.")
- Women tend to use qualifiers and questions, which makes them seem tentative, rather than assertive.
- Women tend to use less profanity.
- Women tend to use quantifiers and often have other meaning in what they say.

TALKING HABITS

- Women tend to talk more at home and less in public situations.
- Women are more inclined to face each other and make eye contact when talking.
- When listening, women make more noises such as "mm-hmm" and "uh-huh" to encourage the speaker to continue talking.
- Women are inclined to express agreement and support.
- Women establish intimacy by discussing problems and showing concern and empathy in order to reinforce relationships.
- In women-only discussions, women reveal a lot about their private lives. They also stick to one topic for a long time, let all speakers finish their sentences and try to have everyone participate.
- Girl talk often entails the rapid disclosure of details, with the expectation of immediate and enthusiastic reciprocation.
- Women use conversation to negotiate closeness and intimacy; talk is the essence of intimacy, so being best friends means sitting and talking.
- When women get together they seek the input of the other women present and make decisions based on the wishes of all.
- Women often show understanding by finishing each other's sentences or chiming in on the end of each other's sentences, but this will often be only an expression of support, and the first woman will still have the floor.
- Women are better at reading emotions and therefore better at manipulating others with an appropriate lie. They also tell more complicated lies than men.

WOMEN'S CONVERSATION AROUND MEN

- Women who are otherwise liberated and articulate can be heard uttering inanities like "Oh, really" and "How fascinating" in support of a male in mid-narrative. They will nod their heads, smile a lot, assume sympathetic expressions and, most important, keep their gaze fixed unwaveringly on the speaker's face.
- Women often temper their speech by adding qualifiers and deferring to the men in the conversation (often without being aware of it).

TOPICS OF CONVERSATION

- Women's dialogue tends to be more socially-driven or emotionally driven.

- Women are more comfortable talking or thinking about people and relationships because, to their minds, it shows support and empathy for the people they are discussing. (Where as men often find such personal discussion about others to be rude or gossipy).
- Women are better multi-taskers and can switch topics swiftly, and often, in a conversation and still maintain the thread of the conversation.

Have you noticed any of these characteristics in yourself or the women around you?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

Virginia Lady: "I like the different ways women talk depending on who's in the group. Sometimes women defer to men when in conversation to make the men feel more important/popular/etc. Sometimes it is a deliberate action."

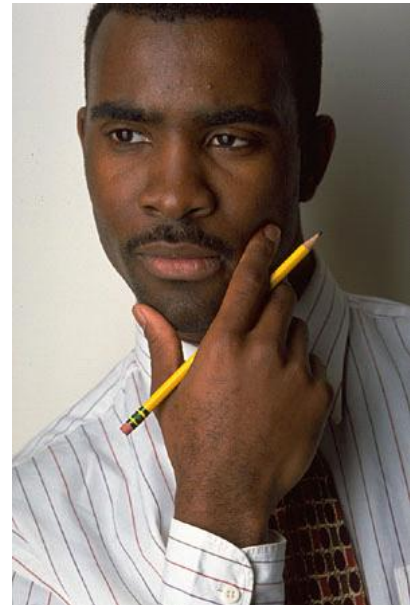
MALE THINKING

There's much we still don't know about how our brains work. But scientists continue to do studies to determine how our brains work and why. Here are some of the findings from different studies about how a man's brain works.

THIS IS HIS BRAIN...

The parietal lobe at the top back part of the brain is said to be larger in men, especially the left side. This part of the brain:

- estimates time
- judges speed
- visualizes objects in 3-D (such as catching a football thrown toward you)
- solves math problems.



Our direction sense is influenced by this part of the brain, which may indicate why men are usually better at directions.

Men have 4% more brain cells than women, and about 100 grams more of brain tissue. (So men need more brain tissue in order to get the same things done as women?)

Male language is most often just in the dominant hemisphere (usually the left side) which results in their conversation being more detail-oriented and more directly to the point.

In the event of stroke or a brain injury, men who have left-sided damage are less likely to recover as fully than women, with similar injuries, who use both sides of the brain for language.

A man's brain, in comparison to a woman's, is relatively quiet. It needs stimulation.

THIS IS HIS BRAIN ON TESTOSTERONE...

Male brains tend to be higher in:

- independence
- dominance
- spatial and mathematical skills
- rank-related aggression

Men have only four to six areas of the brain to evaluate others' behavior (where women have between fourteen and sixteen areas) which explains why men find it harder to read facial expressions and body language.

Men find it difficult to interpret the more subtle cues in women's body language. Research shows that men tend to mistake friendliness and smiling for sexual interest.

Men see the world in more sexual terms than women because they have ten to twenty times more testosterone.

In one study, when asked to think of nothing men's brains were more active in the more primitive physical activity centers of the brain (cerebellum). Left to themselves, men will think about sex, their golf swing, or their jump shot.

The average man will think about sex as often as once a minute.

Does this offer any clues as to why the men in your life act so strangely sometimes? It explained a few things to me. Do you know of any other brain-related differences between males and females?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

Cats: "If I remember this correctly, there is also a relation between the level of testosterone and hair growth: high levels of testosterone makes men's hair fall out quicker - that might be a comfort to balding men.

And men's brain also have a smaller Corpus callosum - the bundle of nerves which connects the left and right hemisphere of the brain. This adds to the recovery issues you mentioned - women use information of both hemispheres more easily because they are better connected.

I like the part about men's brains needing stimulation. It correlates nicely with their generally higher tolerance of dangerous situations and of looking for stimulation through action oriented activities.

Jessica De Milo: "The time and space judgment is interesting to me.

My mom dated a guy who said, lovingly of course, that coordination struck women once every ten seconds. I wonder if part of what he was really saying wasn't that the women around him really were not as able as he was to judge how far they were from the coffee table they whacked their knee on or how fast the dog was really running toward their feet."

Kaitlin: "I don't know what this correlates to, but I've noticed that most men have a harder time just sitting still. It's like their body needs to be in constant motion. Drives me batty sometimes, b/c the men in my family are constantly wanting to do something!"

Carol Burnside: "The time and space judgment thing is interesting to me because my husband has such quick reflexes. While I'm still gasping/reacting, he's already caught the falling object in mid-air."

FEMALE THINKING

Women sometimes get a reputation for being scatter-brained, or worse, empty-headed. (All those blonde jokes...) But the truth is that women have very unique brains that are well-suited to the traditional roles that women have played through the millennia.

THIS IS HER BRAIN...

The female brain is organized for multi-tracking. The average woman can juggle between two and four unrelated topics at the same time.

It is reported that a woman's brain has a larger corpus callosum, which means women can transfer data between the right and left hemisphere faster than men. Men tend to be more left brained, while women have greater access to both sides.

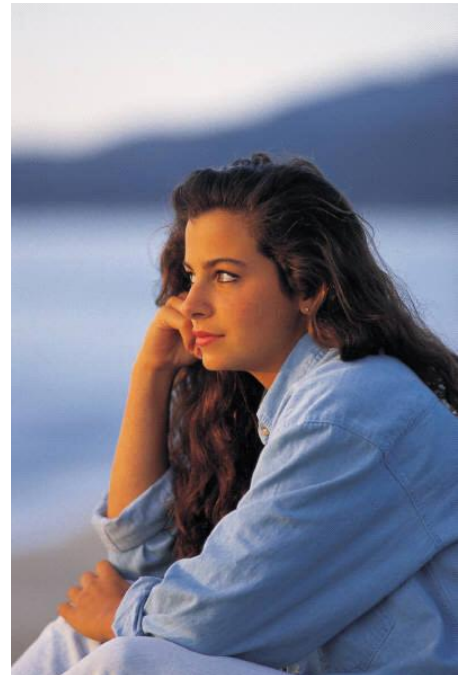
Because of greater access to the right hemisphere (which is associated with nuance, reading social cues, deception detection), women are much better at knowing when things are awry.

- Wives call marital therapists nine times out of ten when there is relational trouble.
- mothers call child therapists nine times out of ten when children are struggling.
- Women can also spot a man lying to her much faster than a man catches his wife in a lie.
- Mothers are also better at catching kids in lies.

Women are able to use both sides of their brain for language, so they tend to be more fluent, which may be why they have more to say.

When husbands and wives get into arguments, their hemisphere activation styles (men = left brain, women = both right and left) often make problems worse. Because women use more words, men often become overwhelmed in disagreements and say insensitive things like "what's the point," or "specifically what do you want." These statements infuriate women and make communication even tougher. They know the point, they just have a harder time articulating it succinctly due to the extra input from the right side.

The limbic system, or emotional brain, tends to be larger in women. The limbic system is the emotional bonding center of the brain.



- It is no accident that women in overwhelming numbers are the primary caretakers for children.
- Women are primary caretakers for the elderly. Seventy percent of elderly people who need care get it from a woman.
- Women tend to have more friends in life, they go to church more often than men, and they pray (bonding with God) more than men.

Women have a larger nesting instinct than men. They have a greater biological need to have their houses in order. When a couple moves it is generally the woman who feels unsettled until everything is put away. Women are usually primary caretakers for the home and take on the bulk of housework.

With the larger limbic size comes a greater incidence of depression. After puberty, females are three times more likely to develop depression than males.

Typically the woman's brain is very active. Thinking, thinking, thinking, especially in the emotional part of the brain. A woman's brain is always working.

Why do women always want to talk? Researchers have found that connecting with another through talking will trigger the pleasure centers in a woman's brain, a high second only to an orgasm.

A 20-second hug will trigger the release of oxytocin in a woman's brain. The effect of this chemical will often give the woman a feeling of trust in the person hugging her.

Women have between fourteen and sixteen areas of the brain to evaluate others' behavior (versus a man's four to six areas). This explains how a woman can attend a dinner party and rapidly work out the state of the relationships of other couples at the party-who's had an argument, who likes who, and so on.

THIS IS HER BRAIN AT WORK...

Women are more perceptive than men. Using their "women's intuition", they have the innate ability to pick up and decipher nonverbal signals, and have an accurate eye for small details.

Women are more able to focus on specific stimuli, such as a baby crying in the night.

Women generally can recall lists of words or paragraphs of text better than men.

Women are better at

- recognizing emotional overtones in others and in language
- emotional and artistic expressiveness
- esthetic appreciation
- verbal language
- carrying out detailed and pre-planned tasks
- empathy
- social skills
- security-seeking

From all these facts, a woman's head obviously isn't empty. Instead there's a lot going on in there. It's easy to see why men and women sometimes have trouble talking to one another when you look at the differences in how our brains are made. If you're creating a female character for a story, try using some of these facts to take advantage of her unique female qualities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMENTS

JLR: "I'm a little surprised by the fact that women are better multi-taskers than men, since I always believed it the opposite. Or maybe it's not multi-tasking, but maybe men are just better at tuning out people talking to them while they are doing a task and faking that they were listening all along."

Natalie Hatch: "I told hubby my brain works harder than his and he said that was because I talk too much, if I'd just stop and listen it wouldn't have to. Men tend to segregate tasks where women try to attack all tasks at once, I think this is in preparation for motherhood."

OTHER RESOURCES

MALE/FEMALE BODY LANGUAGE

[The Definitive Book of Body Language](#) by Barbara Pease and Allan Pease

[What Every BODY is Saying: An Ex-FBI Agent's Guide to Speed-Reading People](#) by Joe Navarro and Marvin Karlins

[Love Signals: A Practical Field Guide to the Body Language of Courtship](#) by David Givens

[The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Body Language](#) by Peter Andersen

MALE/FEMALE LANGUAGE PATTERNS

[Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps: How We're Different and What to Do About It](#) by Allan Pease and Barbara Pease

[You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation](#) by Deborah Tannen

<http://bookblog.net/gender/genie.php> - This site let's you copy in some dialogue and evaluates it for male/female characteristics.

Don't Emascuate Your Hero by Judith Hill - <http://www.hodrw.com/hero.htm>

A manual test for determining the gender of the author of a piece of writing -

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/10/magazine/10wwln-test.html?ex=1216872000&en=22ad8a93877be013&ei=5070>

www.AskMen.com – good resource for “listening in” on how men talk or for asking questions of men.

www.iVillage.com – good resource for getting the female perspective

www.cosmopolitan.com- Cosmopolitan magazine online for the female perspective

www.redbookmag.com – Redbook magazine online for the female perspective

MALE/FEMALE BRAIN

[The Essential Difference: The Truth About the Male and Female Brain](#) by Simon Baron-Cohen

Differences in Brains of Women and Men - <http://cnri.edu/DrWilson/brain-differences.htm>

Brain Place - <http://amenclinics.com/bp/>

APPENDIX A – QUICK SUMMARY CHARTS

BODY LANGUAGE

Male	Female
<p>Common Stances/Gestures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legs apart, both feet firmly on the ground. • Thumbs tucked into the belt or top of the pockets, framing the genital area • Leg over the arm of the chair – signals informal aggressive attitude • Straddling a backwards facing chair – dominates, controls, shields his front • Seated in chair, arms clasped behind the head – signals intimidation or relaxation, also used as a “know-it-all” gesture and a territorial sign 	<p>Common Stances/Gestures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand slightly closer to other women, face each other more, and touch more than men do with other men • Draw attention to themselves by putting their hands on their hips combined with a pelvic tilt. May also put one hand on the hip and gesture with the other. • Tend to keep their arms more open when they are around men they find attractive and are likely to fold their arms across their breasts around aggressive or unattractive men
<p>Hold mostly expressionless faces in public</p>	<p>Smile more than men in social and business situations</p>
<p>Less likely to touch anyone, especially another man</p>	<p>More likely to touch another woman or man</p>
<p>Courtship signals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preening behavior – straightens his tie, smooths his collar, brushes imaginary dust from his shoulder, touches his cufflinks or watch, rearranges his shirt, coat and other clothing • Thumbs in Belt gesture – highlights crotch • Turns body toward her, points foot toward her • Uses an intimate gaze and holds her gaze longer than usual • When seated or leaning against a wall, may spread his legs to display his crotch • Crotch Adjust • Wearing a tie to one side and a little lint on one shoulder – any woman who finds him attractive can’t resist straightening the tie and brushing off the lint 	<p>Courtship Signals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head toss and hair flick back over the shoulders or away from the face • Wet lips and pouting mouth, slightly open • Self-touching, like stroking thigh, neck or throat • Limp wrist as submission signal • Fondling a cylindrical object • Exposed wrists • Sideways glance over raised shoulder • Rolling hips • Pelvic tilt – emphasizes waist to hip ratio • Handbag in close proximity to the man – personal item that’s treated by her as almost an extension of her body. If she finds him attractive she may slowly fondle and caress her handbag. Or ask him to pass it to her or retrieve something from it. • Knee point – leg tucked under the other and points to the person she finds most interesting • Shoe fondle – dangling the shoe on the end of the foot and thrusts foot in and out of it • Leg twine – one leg crossed over the other and pressed against it

SPEECH

Male	Female
Tend to talk more than women in public situations	Tend to talk more than men at home.
Will say "I want" something.	Will say "I would like" something.
Are more likely to look away from each other when talking with other men.	Are more inclined to face each other and make eye contact when talking with other women
Are more inclined to debate.	Are more inclined to express agreement and support
Verbal strategy is to divulge as few personal details as possible, while assiduously avoiding all expressions of emotion that could be interpreted as weakness.	Tend to try and establish intimacy by discussing problems and showing concern and empathy in order to reinforce relationships.
Are usually monologuing at each other and at women. It's not an exchange of ideas; it's a competition."	Use conversation to negotiate closeness and intimacy; talk is the essence of intimacy, so being best friends means sitting and talking.
Communicating style seeks to establish and maintain status and dominance.	Communicating style is more egalitarian, or rule-by-consensus
Prefer so-called determiners -- "a," "the," "that," "these" -- along with numbers and quantifiers like "more" and "some."	Far more likely than men to use personal pronouns -- "I," "you" and "she" especially.
Don't talk about their feelings	Do talk about their feelings
Make demands/commands	Make requests

BRAIN/THINKING

Male	Female
Tend to be higher in independence, dominance, spatial and mathematical skills, rank-related aggression	Tend to be higher than males in empathy, verbal skills, social skills and security-seeking
Find it difficult to interpret the more subtle cues in women's body language and research shows that men tend to mistake friendliness and smiling for sexual interest.	More perceptive than men, have innate ability to pick up and decipher nonverbal signals, have an accurate eye for small details
Tend to be better at estimating time, judging speed of things, carrying out mental mathematical calculations, orienting in space and visualizing objects in three dimensions	Tend to be better at recognizing emotional overtones in others and in language, emotional and artistic expressiveness, esthetic appreciation, verbal language and carrying out detailed and pre-planned tasks