



3. HOW TO AVOID SEXISM

LEARNER WORKSHEET 5: HOW TO AVOID SEXISM IN LANGUAGE

How to change our language to become polite, modern and benevolent

Instead of:

Actress

Hostess

Waitress

Policewoman

Spokesman

Try:

Actor

Host

Server

Police officer

Spokesperson

Does everybody know what

he want**S**

Man is a species who suckles his young
young The man we want for the job

The man on the street

Manning the office

Change to the plural form

Each student must complete **his**

assessment by Friday.

Change to the passive form

He must return it by the due date.
date

Use indefinite pronouns and articles:

Does everybody know what

they want

Humans are a species who suckle **their**
The person we want for the job

The average person

The ordinary person

People in general

Staffing the office

Students must complete **their**
assessments by Friday

It must be returned by the due



A **student** who wants **his** essay returned.

Anyone who wants an essay returned...
Anyone wanting essays returned...

Instead of:

Try:

She's a tomboy
He's a sissy

She's an adventurous/daring girl
He's a sensitive/caring boy

Men and Women
Boys and Girls
Husbands and Wives

Women and Men
Girls and Boys
Wives and Husbands

Fathers and Mothers
Sir or Madam

Mothers and Fathers
Madam or Sir

manpower **personnel, staff, workforce, available workers, human resources**

workman
workmanship

worker
quality of work, work skill

REMEMBER: Do not overdo it; try to be moderate and follow your common sense:

Instead of

Try

A baby cries when **he or she** is tired

Babies cry when **they are** tired

In an excerpt of a feminist church service

This is surely taking the sexism of

the hymns were referred to as "hers"

English a little too far!

and instead of "Amen" they said "Awomen".



Now try to find similar examples in yours and other languages

Notes for the teacher:

- At the last performance parents and students' friends could be invited to enjoy the work of students.
- Arrange the exhibition of their drawings.
- Invite some local media to report the event.



CONTENT BASED TEACHING + PLURILINGUAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS
CONBAT

ARE YOU SEXIST

Anna Ananieva

Assessment:

- All the Students that have drawn pictures are given some points/ marks.
- All Students performing examples of sexism are given some points/ marks