

Self-study

Mary Underwood &  
Pauline Barr

# Listeners

Series C: Matters of Opinion

Pack C1

**MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY**  
**STUDENTS AND THEIR ATTITUDES**

**Oxford University Press**

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# LISTENERS

Mary Underwood and Pauline Barr

MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY  
STUDENTS AND THEIR ATTITUDES

Oxford University Press

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### What are 'Listeners'?

A series of listening programmes on cassette, designed to be used by students working on their own. Each cassette contains two programmes lasting 30 minutes each; and the book which goes with the cassette contains the notes and exercises for both programmes.

### What's the aim of 'Listeners'?

'Listeners' give you the opportunity to hear, and learn to understand, 'the real thing'—English as native speakers use it when they talk to each other. To get the most out of the programmes, you should use the book and do the exercises at the same time as you listen. After that, listen to the programme again just for pleasure.

### What's in the programmes?

Conversations, discussions, interviews and stories about the topic of the programme. These 'Extracts' are linked together in the programme by the presenter's commentary and by songs and music; another speaker gives you the instructions.

### What's in the books?

Short introductions to the Extracts; Notes on the language used by the speakers; Exercises to help you understand them; the Transcript of the Extracts; the Answers to the exercises where they are needed; and the Words, if any, of the songs.

### How do you use 'Listeners'?

- 1 The book will tell you when to listen to your tape. As you read through, you will come to the words 'Start your tape' and see a symbol in the margin; you must start your tape whenever you come to that symbol.
- 2 The tape will tell you when to read your book. As you listen, you will hear the words 'Stop your tape and read about Extract A' or 'Stop your tape and do Exercise A', and then you will hear three musical notes; you must stop your tape and read your book whenever you hear those notes.
- 3 If you have a counter on your cassette recorder, set it at 000 when you begin the programme. Then, whenever you see the symbol in the margin, write the counter number in the box before you press the



button. This will help you to find the correct place if you want to rewind the tape and listen again.

- 4 *The Extracts.* These are the parts of the programme you must listen to most carefully. Don't worry if you don't understand everything you hear, but do rewind your tape and listen again if you haven't understood enough to do the exercises. You will hear people with all kinds of accents, some speaking slowly, others more quickly. Remember that, in order to benefit from the programmes and to enjoy them, you don't need to understand every word the speakers say.
- 5 *The Notes.* Many of the Extracts have notes on the language used by the speakers. Study these notes *before* you listen to the Extracts; they will help you to understand.
- 6 *The Exercises.* These are designed firstly to help you practise listening and to focus your attention on the Extracts, and also, in some cases, to help you find out how well you have understood. Some of the exercises should be done *before* you listen to the Extract, others *after* you listen, and others *while* you are listening; the book tells you when and how to do them. Also, some of the exercises are recorded on the tape; again, the book will tell you how to do them.
- 7 *The Transcript.* This is a printed version of the exact words of the speakers in each Extract. Try not to look at the Transcript until after you have listened to the Extract and done the exercises.
- 8 *The Answers.* The answers to some of the exercises are printed after the Transcript; the other exercises do not have a definite or 'correct' answer—they depend on your opinions or imagination. Don't look at the answers until you have done the exercises.

**Remember these two rules:**

Read until you see the symbol



Listen until you hear the notes







# MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY

000

Start your tape and listen.

## Part I. What are the differences?

### Extract A At school.

Fiona, who's fifteen, talks about boys and girls at school.

**disciplined** here, behaving properly.

**put over to** (informal) persuade.

**impressions** here, doing things to impress others favourably.

**show-off moods** (informal) doing things to make other people notice.

**vice versa** the other way round.

**a mixed school** a school with both boys and girls.

**looked up to** respected.

**smarter** quicker, cleverer.

**the sixth form** the highest class in a secondary school, for pupils aged sixteen to eighteen.

**outlooks** attitudes.

**Exercise A1** What do you think are the differences between boys and girls in school? Put a tick (✓) in one of the columns on the left to show what you think. (Don't use the columns on the right yet.)

	I think:		Fiona thinks:	
	boys of 15	girls of 15	boys of 15	girls of 15
1 Who is more disciplined?				
2 Who is more respected?				
3 Who is more serious about their work?				
4 Who is further ahead?				

Find out what Fiona thinks by listening to Extract A. Fill in the columns on the right as you listen.

Start your tape and listen to Extract A.



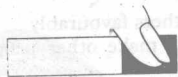
**Exercise A2** Answer these questions to show what Fiona thinks.

- 1 Are the girls impressed when the boys 'show off'?
- 2 Why are the girls respected more than the boys?
- 3 Are the boys always behind the girls?
- 4 Are fifteen-year-old boys more grown up than fifteen-year-old girls?

**Extract B Physical strength.**

Nigel compares the strength of men and women.  
**hardier** tougher, more able to bear extremes.

**Exercise B1** Do you think men are stronger than women? Find out if Nigel agrees with you by listening to Extract B.



Start your tape and listen to Extract B.

**Exercise B2** Mark each of the following statements T for true and F for false according to Extract B. If the answer is not clear from the tape, mark the statement with a question mark (?). Listen to Extract B again if you need to.

- 1 Women are hardier than men.
- 2 Women cannot do heavy work.
- 3 Men have more physical strength.
- 4 Men live longer.
- 5 Women can survive better in extreme temperatures.

**Extract C Who does best?**

Margaret and Fiona discuss whether men do better than women.

**Exercise C1** You can find the words which are missing below in Extract C. Listen and fill them in.

- 1 the ability to bear terrible things  
r . . . . li . . . .
- 2 the ability to achieve things by yourself  
in . . . . . ive
- 3 the ability to keep trying until you achieve your aim  
s . . . . . P . . . .

4 being adventurous

sp . . . . . y . . . . . w . . . . .

Start your tape and listen to Extract C.

**Exercise C2** Listen to Extract C again and write down Margaret's final remarks. Begin:

'No, I, I still think in business . . .'

**Extract D Driving.**

Pat is a driving instructor. He has taught many hundreds of men and women to drive.

**have the impression** believe.

**pick it up** learn it.

**whereas** but.

**licence** here, driving licence.

**entitles him** allows him.

**tear up** destroy.

**the plates 'L'** (learner) plates, showing that the driver has not yet got his licence.

**slide** here, return to bad habits.

**Exercise D** Look at the statements below. Put a tick (✓) or a cross (x) in the column on the left to show whether you agree with them or not.

	I think:	Pat thinks:
1 Men are good drivers.		
2 Women are bad drivers.		
3 Men learn to drive quickly.		
4 Women learn to drive more slowly.		
5 Women forget good driving habits.		
6 Men remember good driving habits.		

Fill in the column on the right for Pat as you listen to Extract D.

Start your tape and listen to Extract D.

## Part 2 Role differences

Start your tape and listen.

### Extract E Stereotypes.

David talks about male and female stereotypes.

**stereotypes** fixed traditional pictures of what people are like.

**ironing** making clothes smooth, after washing.

**fixed jokes** here, the same old 'funny' stories.

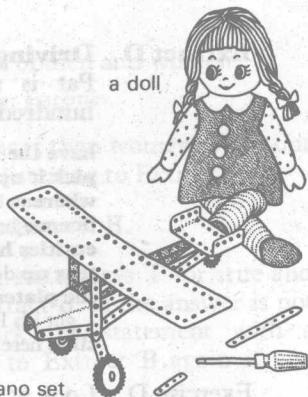
**mother-in-law jokes** jokes about the wife's mother.

**reinforce** make stronger.

**conception** here, idea, image.

**is pushed on us** i.e. we are made to believe it.

a doll



a meccano set

**Exercise E1** Imagine you have to prepare an advertisement for television. You want to show a man, a woman, a boy and a girl all doing 'typical' activities. Write down two activities you might choose for each. For example, man: painting the house.

Man: .....

Woman: .....

Girl: .....

Boy: .....

Listen to Extract E to find out whether David talks about the 'typical' activities you have written down.

Start your tape and listen to Extract E.

**Exercise E2** List all the things which David says reinforce the stereotype of a woman, Listen to Extract E again if you need to.

## Extract F The roles people play.

Malcolm, a sociologist, talks about the different roles men and women play in society.

**ambiguity** here, no clear distinction.

**predictability** able to be guessed.

**child-rearing** bringing up children.

**division of labour** who does which jobs.

**joint** shared.

**tasks** jobs.

**rigidly** strongly, clearly.

**Exercise F** There are four incomplete statements from Extract F recorded on your tape. For each one, choose from the possible alternatives below the one that would sensibly complete it. You can hear what Malcolm actually says when you listen to Extract F.

- 1 A society today  
B everything nowadays  
C the roles people play
- 2 A how people think  
B what people will do  
C when people work
- 3 A making money  
B repairing things  
C bringing up children
- 4 A sharing decisions  
B women making decisions  
C men making decisions

Start your tape for Exercise F and Extract F.

## Extract G To be a housewife or not?

Clare explains her views.

Start your tape and listen to Extract G.

**Exercise G** Complete this sentence:

Clare thinks that a woman should ...

**Extract H** **Sharing the housework.**

Dawn talks about men and women sharing jobs.



**household chores** housework.

Start your tape and listen to Extract H.

**Exercise H** Is the situation Dawn describes true in your country?  
Write a short explanation of what generally happens.  
Begin like this:

In my country, the men usually . . .



**Extract I** **Who looks after the children?**

Barbara is expecting her first child very soon. She talks about the discussions she's had recently with her husband.

**burden here, responsibility.**

**modify change.**

**boosts his ego** makes him feel more important.

the **prop** and **stay** the main support.  
**albeit** even if.  
**a blow** here, a shock.  
**come to terms with** accept.  
**led to think** persuaded.

**Exercise I1** Agree or disagree with the following statements by putting a tick (✓) or a cross (✗) in the column on the left.

	I think:	Barbara thinks:
1 Women with children at school shouldn't go out to work.		
2 It should always be the mother who looks after a sick child.		
3 Men's jobs are more important than women's jobs.		
4 Men don't like to think that they're important.		

Fill in the column on the right for Barbara as you listen to Extract I.

Start your tape and listen to Extract I.

**Exercise I2** There are four of Barbara's arguments from Extract I recorded on your tape. Imagine you are Barbara's husband, and you are arguing against her. Write down how you would reply to each of Barbara's arguments.

Start your tape for Exercise I2.

**Extract J** A male 'housewife'.  
 Barbara explains what a friend of hers does.

**running the children back and forth** here, taking them by car.  
**goes through the roof** (informal) gets very angry.

**Exercise J1** There are four incomplete statements from Extract J recorded on your tape. For each one, choose the



alternative below which most sensibly completes the statement. You can hear what Barbara actually says when you listen to Extract J.

- 1 A to work  
B to her mother  
C to reading a lot
- 2 A left home  
B stopped working  
C made a lot of money
- 3 A ever  
B two days  
C two years
- 4 A he is happy  
B he is angry  
C he says nothing

Start your tape for Exercise J1 and Extract J.

#### Exercise J2

What do you think of Barbara's friend's arrangement? Complete this sentence:

'I  think  don't think it's a good idea because ...'

#### Extract K Changing things.

Scilla explains her feelings.

**category** a group of similar things or people.

**women mould the men** women form the men, make them as they want them to be.

**raise** here, bring up.

**feminists** people who fight for women's rights.

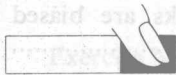
**a male-orientated society** a society organized in favour of men.

#### Exercise K

Find out whether Scilla agrees with these statements by listening to Extract K. Tick (✓) the statements she agrees with.

- 1 No man ever helps a woman.
- 2 Women are responsible for how men behave, since it is mothers who bring up sons.
- 3 Women get the men they really deserve.

- 4 Feminists believe it's a male-orientated society.
- 5 Giving a little girl dolls to play with doesn't influence the role she will play in society.



Start your tape and listen to Extract K.



### Part 3 At work.



Start your tape and listen.



#### Extract L Jobs for women.

Dawn talks about jobs for women.

bias specially favourable treatment.

Civil Service government administrators.

grades marks in exams.

ironed out here, solved.

Exercise L Complete the following as you listen to Extract L.

- 1 A job Dawn thinks women shouldn't do is .....
- 2 Two professions which Dawn thinks are biased against women are ..... and .....
- 3 Dawn believes that women should have .....

Start your tape and listen to Extract L.

**Extract M Equal opportunities.**

Scilla explains her views.

Exercise M Do you think women have the same job opportunities as men? Look at the statements below. Show what you think by putting a tick (✓) and a cross (x) in the column on the left.

	I think:	Scilla thinks:
1 A woman has exactly the same opportunities as a man.		
2 A woman has to work just as hard as a man.		
3 In practice, women don't have the same opportunities as men.		
4 It's easier for a man to do well at work.		

Fill in the column on the right for Scilla as you listen to Extract M.

Start your tape and listen to Extract M.

**Extract N Working women in society.**

Malcolm, the sociologist you heard in Extract F, gives some background information.

**in a big wave** in a sudden rush, in large numbers.

**class background** i.e. social class: working class, middle class or upper class.

**skilled manual (work)** specialized work using the hands.

**clerical work** work in an office.