

## After You Read

### Understanding the Text

#### A. Comprehension

For each item below, fill in the correct circle.

Identifying the Author's Purpose the purpose of the article is to. \_\_

1. educate

@persuade

©entertain

®tell a personal story

.2Finding the Main Idea A main idea of this article is that. \_\_

®many languages have feminine nouns

®you should never use a feminine noun instead of a masculine or gender-neutral noun

©you should use the type of noun that best expresses your meaning

®in English, there used to be more feminine nouns than there are now

.3Scanning for Details According to the reading, in \_\_, the form of a verb can depend on the gender of its subject.

@English

@Hebrew

©Japanese

®Spanish

.4Scanning for Details An equivalent noun pair like "prince" and "princess. \_\_\_ "

@is always OK to use

®is never OK to use

©is not common in most languages

®has gained currency recently

.5Scanning for Details Using a term like "authoress" to refer to female authors can cause problems because. \_\_\_

@some people might not know the word

@the term may become obsolete

©it's not a common term

®it suggests that female authors have lower status

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.6Scanning for Details According to the author, when you aren't sure

whether 1rs UK to use a female noun, you should. \_\_\_\_

@always use the male-specific term

®think about your audience

©try to find a different word to use

®ask your audience what they're comfortable with

## B. Vocabulary

Underline these words in the reading passage on pages 15-17. Then complete

each sentence with the correct word.

potential imply relevant exclusively avoid gender-neutral

.1Using the term "female doctor" instead of simply "doctor" can\_ \_\_\_\_\_

that there is a difference between male and female doctors.

.2Before using a female noun, you should always consider whether or not it

conveys your message correctly. Otherwise, you have the to

express the wrong message.

.3terms like "flight attendant" are always acceptable.

.4Female nouns do not occur \_\_\_\_\_ in English. They also exist in other

languages.

.5Sometimes it's OK to use terms like "actress." That's when the gender of the

person is to the discussion.

.6Try to using gender-specific nouns when you are not trying to

differentiate between men and women.

## C. Consider the Issues

Work with a partner to answer the questions below.

.1The author says, "Even in English, there used to be more female-specific

nouns than there are now. Centuries ago, people used now-obsolete nouns

such as 'teacheress: 'soldieress: and 'ministress:" Why do you think English

speakers use female-specific nouns less frequently now than they used to?

List your ideas below.

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.2Do you ever use gender-specific nouns in English? Why or why not?

Do you agree with the author that these words can be offensive?

.3Does your first language have gender-specific nouns or verbs?

Share some examples.

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## Building Vocabulary

### Using Female and Gender-Neutral Nouns

Some nouns that used to be common, like weatherman and stewardess, are gender-biased. Gender-neutral terms were created to replace them. Look at this list of gender-biased nouns and their gender-neutral forms.

weatherman

businessman

fireman

waiter/waitress

steward/ stewardess

congressman

salesman

repairman

foreman

mankind

businessperson, business executive

firefighter

server

flight attendant

congressperson, congressional representative

salesperson, sales associate

repairperson

boss, leader, foreperson

humankind

A. Replace each boldfaced noun with the appropriate gender-neutral noun.

Use the plural form of the noun when necessary.

.1Have you seen any salesmen in this store? I've been in here for 15 minutes, and I can't find anyone to help me.

.2The invention of the automobile had an enormous effect on the development of mankind\_ \_\_\_\_\_

.3Our congressman gave a speech in front of city hall to encourage people to vote for her in the election next month.

.4John is the foreman here. He'll show you around when you start work tomorrow.

.5The stewardesses have asked us to stay seated until the plane comes to a complete stop.

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.8Match each gender-biased term with its gender-neutral form.

.1chairman a. news reporter

.2brotherhood b. prehistoric person

.3anchorman c. childcare provider

.4cowboy d. kinship

.5manning e. chairperson

.6caveman f. rancher

.7nanny g. staffing

C. Complete each sentence with a noun from the box on page 20 or from

Activity B. Use the plural form of the noun when necessary.

.1My neighbor's kitchen caught fire yesterday. Ten\_ \_\_\_\_\_ came and put the fire out.

.2Will you call a \_\_\_\_\_ ? The washing machine is broken again.

.3You'd better wear a warm coat. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the news

said it's going to snow tonight.

.4Hi, I'm Alan and I'll be your \_\_\_\_\_ this evening. Can

I start you off with something to drink?

.5Someone left a briefcase under the table. I saw three\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

having a meeting here a minute ago. It might belong to one of them.

.6We need to increase in our warehouse. We don't

have enough employees to keep up with the workload.

.7Jan decided to go back to work after she had a baby, so she hired

a\_ \_\_\_\_\_

.8The archaeologists found evidence that \_\_\_\_\_ lived in

the area over 10,000 years ago.

.9I need a \_\_\_\_\_ to help me with this dress. I'm not sure

what size I wear.

.10I feel a strong \_\_\_\_\_ with my friend Elena. She's like

a sister to me.

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Reading Skill

Supporting Main Ideas

Writers usually focus on a few main ideas in a piece of writing. Then they use interesting details and examples to support these main points. These supporting details and examples help the reader to understand and appreciate the writer's main ideas.

Example

It could be worse. (main idea) In some languages most nouns have different forms for different sexes. (supporting detail) For example, in Spanish, a male lawyer is an abogado, and a female lawyer is an abogada.

)supporting example(

A. Analyze the Reading

Find these sentences in the reading. Write M next to the main ideas and S next to the supporting details and examples.

\_\_\_ .1In Hebrew, raa means "saw" for masculine subjects, while raata means "saw" for feminine subjects.

\_\_\_ .2Furthermore, in some languages, even verbs can have different forms, depending on the sex of their subject.

\_\_\_ .3Even in English, there used to be more female-specific nouns than there are now.

.4Take the word "author":

\_\_\_ .5Her point is that sexism in society makes it easy to send messages in our word choice that we don't intend to send.

\_\_\_ .6Unfortunately, even if you follow this guideline of using gender-neutral noun forms in most cases, and gender-specific nouns only when sex is relevant, the problem remains.

\_\_\_ .7Another case in point: "actress":

.8In these cases, avoid referring to a person's sex if possible, and if it's not, carefully assess the usage of your audience.