

Listening: A Man's Life

Yu Katia:

Hello, everyone, this Katia from Mexico and we are here with Paul from England, and today we're gonna have a very interesting conversation about men. What's difficult about being a man and what are the good things about being a man, so we have the right candidate for this. Paul, what are the bad things about being a man?

KH Paul:

What's difficult about being a man? Well, I think... the hardest thing I think is working. The man is **UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE** to go to work and to earn money for the family.

AB Katia:

But I thought men like to work.

KAZ Paul:

Yeah, men do like to work of course. Like most men want to have a career but along with the work, there's a lot of pressure. They have pressure from their wife, from their kids, from their family, from the bank manager.

MI Katia:

Yeah, I guess so. That can be stressful. What else? What else are one of the bad thing of being a man?

CH Paul:

Well, I guess, if a man... has a good job or a job that's taking up a lot of his time, this can sometimes **LEAD TO PROBLEMS** with his relationship, especially with his his kids, I think. For example, if the kids are spending a lot of time with their mother, usually they **FORM A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP** with their mom, so the father, I think, **MISSES OUT ON** his kids growing up sometimes.

NA Katia:

Yeah, that is true and now I can SEE that clearly unfortunately it seems that it's a lot of bad things with the job, but I am sure there are very good things about being a man.

AR Paul:

For sure, there are a lot of advantages I think. For example, appearance. I think, for a man, he doesn't really... when he's not working, he doesn't really need to worry about his appearance. He can wear

whatever clothes he wants to wear. He doesn't brush his hair or he can wear **SCRUFFY SHOES** for example.

AB Katia:

Mmm, are you sure about that one?

SO Paul:

Would you disagree? Yeah, I think usually that appearance is not so important for a man.

DE Katia:

Possibly. I guess women spend more time in appearances but there must be more things than this about good things about being a man.

AI Paul:

Good things? I think men usually can have more fun than women. Like in their free time, they get to play sport and do a lot more fun things I think than women.

SO Y Katia:

Well, Paul, I'm gonna have to disagree with that one, but tell me why. Why do you think men can have more fun than women?

LEO Paul:

Maybe I'm just thinking from a man's **POINT OF VIEW**, but to me shopping sounds very boring.

HA Katia:

OK, well, I do agree with that one, but still you haven't answered my question.

AB Paul:

What was your question again?

AB Katia:

Why do you think men can have more fun than women?

JE Paul:

Just I think that men have a lot more freedom to do fun things and travel. For example, safety and traveling alone. A man can just go traveling by himself, where a woman, she has to think, where am I going, is it safe? For example, this kind of thing.

LE Katia:

OK. I can understand a little bit. You were getting

a little bit nervous, **Paul!**

pressure • lead to • close
missed out • scruffy • point of view

1. I don't think you really understand my **POINT OF VIEW**.
2. He has always been **CLOSE** to his sisters.
3. You know that can **LEAD TO** cancer, right?
4. You look **SCRUFFY**. Your hair is too long and you need to shave.
5. She spent all her time at university studying and **MISSED OUT** on the fun social part.
6. He is under so much **PRESSURE** at work that he has trouble sleeping.

1) What is difficult for men?

- a) Being tough
- b) Career pressures
- c) Showing feelings

2) What else is difficult?

- a) Family relationships
- b) Being a leader
- c) Time management

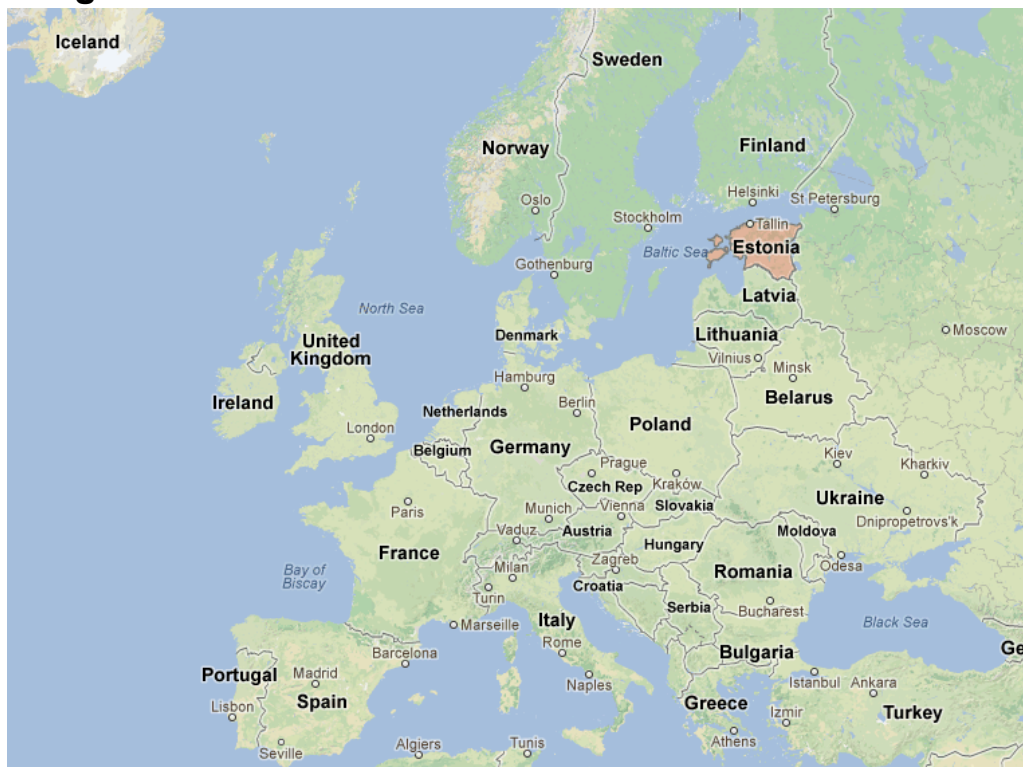
3) What is something men don't worry about?

- a) Their clothes
- b) Their diet
- c) Their time

4) What does Katia disagree with Paul about?

- a) Safety
- b) Shopping
- c) Having fun

#2 Listening: Women in Estonia



Todd: So, Kadi, you are from Estonia. Can you talk about gender roles for the new generation compared to the older generation?

Kadi: Yes, in Estonia, we have this kind of Western type of family, a woman doesn't have to be a housewife. She can work. She can do whatever she likes. Even maybe the tendency right now is that women are becoming more masculine. Often it happens that women make more money than men do and they're the ones who bring the bread in the house. Yeah, compared to Eastern society where usually women are considered as housewives. They just have to clean and cook and raise the kids, and in my country ... no ... there's not such a thing and I think it always has been like that. I'm not quite sure but.

Todd: Who does the chores like cooking and cleaning?

Kadi: Yeah, I think we all do it. We don't have that kind of rule that women only have to clean and cook. Of course in some families, it is like that because women are better cleaning, especially, rather than men are, but yeah, men are quite good cooks.

Todd: What do people do for childcare? Like who takes care of the children?

Kadi: Nannies. Yeah. We have nannies for working mothers, they usually like hire people to watch over the children and just they play with them and also like kindergarten, like children start going to kindergarten in Estonia when they're really young, maybe from three months I think even, yeah, you can go to work when your child is like half-a-year old. Just go to work. Take a child there, and people are going to care about her.

Todd: Is the nanny expected to cook and clean as well?

Kadi: It depends of on the contract. It depends on the contract. Yeah, if you hire a person who that you say you're gonna pay him or her, usually her, like for cleaning, cooking, taking care of the children, whatever, it depends on the contract.

- Do you agree with Kadi that women are becoming masculine?
- If so, do you think this is a good or bad thing?
- What is your opinion about having a nanny to raise a child from a young age?
- Who do you think has life easier, girls or guys? Why?
- What do women dislike most about men and vice versa?
- Do you think it is fair for there to be different laws for men and women?
- Can people in your country change their gender under the law?
- Are gender roles changing in your country?
- How have the roles of men and women in society changed over the last fifty years?