

How lockdown has exposed the gender divide (5:41 mins)

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Listening comprehension with pre-listening and post-listening exercises

Work on the following exercises on this report by Donna Ferguson about childcare and home schooling during the coronavirus pandemic.

This worksheet is written in **British** as the original report is.

Pre-listening

1. How has the coronavirus pandemic added to and changed the responsibilities of parents? Discuss in class using the photo below.



Working and learning at home during the pandemic. | Photo: Getty Images

2. How did the coronavirus pandemic change the amount of time the adults at your home spent working, taking care of, and home schooling their children?

- Fill out the table below by marking the boxes that apply to you.
- To take a survey in class, write the table on the board. Collect your answers together and fill in the table.

	Mother	Father	Other adult	Other adult
Same amount of time				
More time				
Less time				

3. Vocabulary practice

In the table, you find English words and phrases from the recording you are going to hear. Find the correct German expression and write its number in the right column of the table.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rückgang | 5. Standardannahme | 9. Kluft/Gefälle zwischen den Geschlechtern | 13. von etw. betroffen sein |
| 2. Umstände | 6. dazu neigen zu tun | 10. eines(-r) alleinigen Autors(-in) | 14. freiberuflich; selbstständig |
| 3. ungeachtet | 7. einkommensstark | 11. in Teilzeit zu arbeiten | 15. automatisch jdm. zufallen |
| 4. Beitrag | 8. vorlegen; einreichen | 12. zunehmen | 16. wissenschaftl. Arbeit |

English	English definition	German (number)
a) gender divide	the difference between men and women regarding work, education, etc.	
b) freelance; self-employed	having your own business	
c) to go part-time	to begin working less than full-time	
d) circumstances	situation	
e) to be affected by s.th.	to be changed or influenced by s.th.	
f) regardless	independent from	
g) high-income	earning a lot of money	
h) to be inclined to do	to tend to do, to want to do	
i) contribution	an action or service for s.th., especially for s.th. good	
j) drop	a fall or reduction of s.th.	
k) sole-authored	with only one author	
l) academic paper	an article written by and for experts	
m) to submit	to give s.th. (e.g., an article you want to publish) to people who decide whether it will be accepted	
n) to increase	to go up	
o) default assumption	what people automatically think is true	
p) to default to s.o.	to be given to s.o. automatically	

Listening comprehension

Before you listen to the recording, read through the questions and tasks below. You will then hear the recording and answer the questions. You will have time to listen to the recording again and check your answers. Mark (✓) the correct box or write the answer in the blank space.

1. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Mark (✓) the correct box.

Statement	T	F
a) During the lockdown Anna Bosworth stopped working because she lost her customers.		
b) She usually worked from 5am until 8:30pm.		
c) Bosworth had her own business.		
d) Bosworth's husband worked his usual hours during the lockdown.		
e) Bosworth's husband needed to earn money for the whole family.		
f) The Bosworth family included a five-month-old baby and an eight-year-old girl.		

2. Fill in the missing numbers. Don't forget symbols if needed (for example: €, %, etc.).

During the lockdown, the average UK mother spent at least (1) _____ more time on childcare than usual. Mothers gave (2) _____ to (3) _____ more of their time for home schooling than fathers did. That's an extra (4) _____ minutes a day for childcare and home schooling, compared to men. The research was done by economists from (5) _____ different universities between (6) _____ and (7) _____ April. All mothers spent about (8) _____ hours on childcare and home schooling each working day. Fathers only provided slightly more than (9) _____ hours of childcare and home schooling each working day.

3. How did Dr Christopher Rauh summarise the situation? Write one sentence.

4. Complete the table with information about high-income households.

	Mother	Father
Income in £ (more than ...)		
Daily hours of home schooling		
Daily hours of childcare		
Total hours daily	more than _____	less than _____

5. Complete the sentences with information from the text. Mark (✓) the correct answer. There is only one solution.

- a) Some people believe that evolution has made _____
- fathers better at earning money.
 - mothers better at taking care of children.
 - children interested in learning.
 - families closer during difficult situations.
- b) Regarding home schooling, lower-paid men were doing less than higher-paid men during the lockdown.
- true false
- c) Regarding childcare, the biggest difference between men and women was found among low-income groups.
- true false
- d) Mary-Ann Stephenson thinks that women took over more childcare during the pandemic because _____
- more women work part-time.
 - men are used to doing less childcare.
 - women balance family and work life better.
 - most women were working from home.

6. Name one of the reasons that Stephenson gives to explain why women did more childcare than men during the pandemic.

7. Complete the sentences with information from the text. Mark (✓) the correct answer. There is only one solution.

a) Academic papers submitted during the pandemic are mentioned because _____

- the papers were about the gender divide.
- a lot of papers were published.
- men and women wrote the same number of papers.
- women wrote fewer papers than usual.

b) According to Sam Smethers, people think that _____

- men should work less.
- women should put their children before their work.
- teachers should support parents more.
- gender roles will change.

Post-listening

1. In the recording, Anna Bosworth says: "I'm a feminist and believe in choice (...). But because of the pandemic, my choices have been taken away. I feel like a 1950s housewife." Explain her statement.
2. How could families make childcare and home schooling easier during the pandemic?

Answer key

Pre-listening

1. Sample answers

- Like the woman in photo, more parents work from home while taking care of their children. More parents have also taken over more teaching responsibilities than before because they are home schooling their kids.
- Schools have different expectations: some gave students a lot of work and support (virtual classes, chats, etc.), others just gave assignments but little help, which meant that parents would have needed to fill the gaps.
- It can be a chaotic environment; it seems hard for the mother in photo (and family members in general) to concentrate. Parents need to multitask even more.
- Possible other points: Many parents have been doing more shopping, cleaning, and cooking because the family members are at home more.

2. Individual answers

3. Vocabulary practice

- a) 9 • b) 14 • c) 11 • d) 2 • e) 13 • f) 3 • g) 7 • h) 6 • i) 4
 j) 1 • k) 10 • l) 16 • m) 8 • n) 12 • o) 5 • p) 15

Listening comprehension

1.

Statement	T	F
a) During the lockdown Anna Bosworth stopped working because she lost her customers.		✓ (\$1)
b) She usually worked from 5am until 8:30pm.		✓ (\$1)
c) Bosworth had her own business.	✓ (\$1,2)	
d) Bosworth's husband worked his usual hours during the lockdown.		✓ (\$2)
e) Bosworth's husband needed to earn money for the whole family.	✓ (\$2)	
f) The Bosworth family included a five-month-old baby and an eight-year-old girl.		✓ (\$3)

2. (1) 50% (para. 4) • (2) 10% (para. 4) • (3) 30% (para. 4) • (4) 90 (para. 5) • (5) 3 (para. 6) • (6) 9 (para. 6) • (7) 14 (para. 6) • (8) 6 (para. 6) • (9) 4 (para. 6)

3. Women are doing more (childcare and home schooling), but they are not working less. (para. 7)

4. (para. 8)

	Mother	Father
Income in £ (more than ...)	<u>80,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>
Daily hours of home schooling	<u>3.3</u>	<u>2.1</u>
Daily hours of childcare	<u>3.8</u>	<u>2.3</u>
Total hours daily	more than <u>7</u>	less than <u>4.5</u>

5.

- a) mothers better at taking care of children. (para. 9)
- b) false (para. 10)
- c) true (para. 11)
- d) women balance family and work life better. (para. 12)

6. **One of the following** (para. 12):

- In an emergency the woman (may) take on more childcare work.
- Children may be more inclined to go to their mothers.
- Father is paid more / his job seems more important.

7.

- a) women wrote fewer papers than usual. (para. 13)
- b) women should put their children before their work. (para. 14)

Post-listening

1. **Possible points**

- Feminists believe in equality between men and women. They believe that women should have the same rights and choices as men (e.g., professionally, politically, as parents).
- Traditional gender roles (like those in the 1950s) defined men as the breadwinner while women were supposed to stay at home and take care of the household and the children.
- Instead of being a working mother with an income, Anna Bosworth is now taking care of the children at home while her husband has become the only breadwinner. This does not give her the same choices as before, and she feels like living according to traditional gender roles.

2. **Possible points**

- schedules for parents: who is responsible for what and when
- parents being able to work unusual hours (for example, nights or weekends) to make dividing childcare and home schooling easier
- deciding what is important and needs to get done and what can be ignored
- asking friends and relatives to do “virtual babysitting” by talking to kids on phone or doing video chats, maybe even helping with homework

*Frischer Wind
für Alle!* **Neu!**



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