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Women talk three times more than men

23rd February, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might explain why women are more talkative than men - three times more chatty, in fact. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language protein" that goes by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more prevalent in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was deemed to be a key neurological component of speech. The scientists say it is a lot more abundant in girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also supports claims that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words for the average man.

Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to report a sex difference in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added: "The findings raise the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [widespread], and established earlier than previously [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its infancy. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered some interesting insights into the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be heard".

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/9884652/Why-women-are-the-talkative-sex.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2281891/Women-really-talk-men-13-000-words-day-precise.html#ixzz2LbUBAgjf>

WARM-UPS

1. TALKATIVENESS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about talkativeness. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

researchers / protein / talkative / women's brains / speech / speaking quickly / words / professor / expression / possibility / widespread / responsible / infancy / insights

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SEX DIFFERENCES: What are your insights about how women and men differ? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Women...	Men...
talkativeness		
leadership		
mental strength		
driving		
romance		
humour		

4. CHATTY: Students A **strongly** believe it's easier to talk to women than men; Students B **strongly** believe men are easier to talk to. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. CONVERSATION: What do you like to talk about? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- yourself
- politics
- English
- food
- gossip
- the meaning of life
- the weekend
- the weather

6. LANGUAGE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'language'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Women talk more because their diets are richer in protein. | T / F |
| b. Women have more of something called Foxp2 in their brain than men. | T / F |
| c. Foxp2 was first discovered ten years ago. | T / F |
| d. Women use 13,000 more words a day than men. | T / F |
| e. The report is the very first to report sex differences in human speech. | T / F |
| f. Other scientists say Foxp2 is the only protein responsible for speech. | T / F |
| g. The scientists said more research needs to be carried out on infants. | T / F |
| h. Someone said women have to talk more because men don't listen. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. talkative | a. assertions |
| 2. goes by the name of | b. started |
| 3. prevalent | c. linked |
| 4. deemed | d. is called |
| 5. claims | e. provided |
| 6. associated | f. widespread |
| 7. established | g. wisdom |
| 8. infancy | h. chatty |
| 9. offered | i. early days |
| 10. insights | j. judged |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a protein | a. good listeners |
| 2. goes by the name | b. prevalent |
| 3. a lot more | c. insights |
| 4. a key neurological | d. in the brain |
| 5. compared to just 7,000 words | e. previously thought |
| 6. established earlier than | f. themselves to be heard |
| 7. more than one protein | g. of Foxp2 |
| 8. some interesting | h. component of speech |
| 9. men are not | i. responsible for speech |
| 10. women must repeat | j. for the average man |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might (1) _____ why women are more talkative than men - three times more chatty, in (2) _____. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language protein" that (3) _____ by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more prevalent in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was (4) _____ to be a key neurological (5) _____ of speech. The scientists say it is a lot more (6) _____ in girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also (7) _____ claims that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words for the (8) _____ man.

abundant
deemed
fact
supports
explain
component
average
goes

Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to (9) _____ a sex difference in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added: "The findings (10) _____ the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [(11) _____], and established earlier than (12) _____ [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its (13) _____. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered some interesting (14) _____ into the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good (15) _____ and women must repeat themselves to be (16) _____".

previously
listeners
raise
heard
report
infancy
widespread
insights

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

- 1) women are more talkative than men - three times _____
 - a. more chat, tea and fact
 - b. more chatty, in facts
 - c. more chatty, in fact
 - d. most chatty, in fact
- 2) a "language protein" that _____ of Foxp2
 - a. goes by the name
 - b. goes in the name
 - c. goes of the name
 - d. goes under the name
- 3) deemed to be a key _____ of speech
 - a. neurology opponent
 - b. neurologically component
 - c. neurological component
 - d. neurological component
- 4) They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking _____
 - a. early and more quickly
 - b. earlier and most quickly
 - c. earlier and more quick
 - d. earlier and more quickly
- 5) compared to just 7,000 words _____
 - a. for the averaged man
 - b. for the average man
 - c. for average men
 - d. for this average man
- 6) This study is one of the first to _____
 - a. reporter sex difference
 - b. report a sex differential
 - c. report a sex difference
 - d. report sex differences
- 7) raise the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour _____
 - a. are more widespread
 - b. are more widely spread
 - c. are more wildly spread
 - d. are most widespread
- 8) research is _____
 - a. in its infancy
 - b. in its infants
 - c. at its infancy
 - d. on its infants
- 9) offered some interesting _____ of women
 - a. insiders into the chattiness
 - b. insights onto the chattiness
 - c. insides into the chatty ness
 - d. in sites in to the chattiness
- 10) women must repeat themselves _____
 - a. too to be heard
 - b. to be hard
 - c. to be heard
 - d. two be hard

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Researchers in the USA have found (1) _____ the brain might explain why women (2) _____ than men - three times more chatty, in fact. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language protein" that goes by the name of Foxp2 (3) _____ in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was (4) _____ neurological component of speech. The scientists say it is (5) _____ girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also supports claims that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 (6) _____ man.

Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to (7) _____ in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added: "The findings raise the possibility that sex differences (8) _____ are more [widespread], and established (9) _____ [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research (10) _____. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered (11) _____ into the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat (12) _____".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

1. What in the brain could explain the talkativeness of women?

2. What's the name of the protein mentioned in the article?

3. For how long have scientists known about this protein?

4. What did the article say about the protein, and boys and girls?

5. How many words a day do women use than men?

6. Who is Margaret McCarthy?

7. What did other scientists say about the current research?

8. How old is the research into the talkativeness protein?

9. Why did a newspaper reader say women have to talk more?

10. Why did the reader say women have to say the same things again?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

1. What is it in the brain that might explain women's talkativeness?
 - a) a carbohydrate
 - b) an area of "language cells"
 - c) a protein
 - d) an extra part of the brain
2. What's the name of the thing that's more common in women's brains?
 - a) Foxp2
 - b) Fox2p
 - c) 2Foxp
 - d) pFox2
3. For how long have researchers known about the "language protein"?
 - a) 10 days
 - b) 10 weeks
 - c) 10 months
 - d) 10 years
4. What did scientists judge the protein to be an important part of?
 - a) guessing the meaning of unknown words
 - b) speech
 - c) listening
 - d) grammar
5. How many more words a day do women use than men?
 - a) 20,000
 - b) 7,000
 - c) 13,000
 - d) 8,603
6. Who is Margaret McCarthy?
 - a) the world's most talkative woman
 - b) a scientific researcher
 - c) someone who took part in tests
 - d) a language expert
7. How many speech proteins did a different scientist say there were?
 - a) countless numbers
 - b) just once
 - c) thousands
 - d) more than one
8. How old is research into the talkativeness of the sexes?
 - a) decades old
 - b) very young
 - c) 27 years old
 - d) brand new
9. Why did a newspaper reader say women talk more?
 - a) men are not good at listening
 - b) men love to listen
 - c) men like the sound of women's voices
 - d) it's a competition to outtalk men
10. Why did the reader say women have to repeat themselves?
 - a) because they love talking
 - b) to double-check meaning
 - c) because they are women
 - d) so men finally hear what they say

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ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Role A – Woman

You love talking. Tell the others three reasons why. You think men aren't so good at talking. You think men's topics are boring. You believe women are naturally more interesting to talk to. Tell the man he should talk more and be more interesting.

Role B – Man

You love talking. Tell the others three reasons why. You think women aren't so good at talking. You think women's topics are boring. You believe men are naturally more interesting to talk to. Tell the woman she should talk more and be more interesting.

Role C – Speech scientist

You believe women speak a lot more than men but what they say isn't so interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. Ask the woman why she thinks she has more interesting things to say than men. Ask the man why women aren't interesting and men are.

Role D – Alien

You have been on Earth for a year now. You think both men and women talk a lot of nonsense. Ask them why they gossip. Tell them their discussions are full of untrue facts. Tell the woman talking about shopping is a waste of time. Tell the man that talking about sport is meaningless.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'language' and 'protein'.

language	protein

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• might• chatty• goes• decade• reason• average	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sex• raise• previously• responsible• insights• repeat
---	--

TALKATIVENESS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Write five GOOD questions about talkativeness in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

TALKATIVENESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'talkative'?
- c) How talkative are you?
- d) What do you think of people who talk too much?
- e) Do you prefer to talk to men or women?
- f) What do women talk about and why?
- g) Do you think women talk three times more than men?
- h) What's your favourite topic of conversation (and why)?
- i) Should men try and talk more to keep up with women?
- j) What advice would you give to shy people who can't find things to say?

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TALKATIVENESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Would you like to be able to talk more?
- c) Tell me about someone you know who talks too much.
- d) What do men talk about and why?
- e) Why do you think women have a protein in their brain that makes them talk three times more than men?
- f) What do men and women talk about that is boring?
- g) Does everyone talk too much?
- h) Do you believe that "silence is golden"?
- i) Are men really such bad listeners?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might (1) ____ why women are more talkative than men - three times more chatty, in (2) _____. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language protein" that goes by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more (3) ____ in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was deemed to be a key neurological (4) ____ of speech. The scientists say it is a lot more abundant (5) ____ girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also supports (6) ____ that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words for the average man.

Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to report a sex difference in the (7) ____ of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added: "The findings (8) ____ the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [widespread], and established earlier than (9) ____ [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its (10) _____. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered some interesting (11) ____ into the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be (12) _____".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) explain | (b) explains | (c) explaining | (d) explanation |
| 2. | (a) factual | (b) facts | (c) fact | (d) faction |
| 3. | (a) previously | (b) prevailing | (c) prevalent | (d) previewed |
| 4. | (a) remittance | (b) mercenary | (c) recharge | (d) component |
| 5. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) by | (d) at |
| 6. | (a) finds | (b) claims | (c) arrears | (d) requests |
| 7. | (a) repression | (b) compression | (c) omission | (d) expression |
| 8. | (a) up | (b) raise | (c) level | (d) rise |
| 9. | (a) perilously | (b) imperviously | (c) previously | (d) partially |
| 10. | (a) junior | (b) infancy | (c) infants | (d) senior |
| 11. | (a) panes | (b) insides | (c) outsiders | (d) insights |
| 12. | (a) audible | (b) heard | (c) voluble | (d) fluent |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Paragraph 1

1. language rtinpeo
2. a lot more relaevtnp
3. cleolraognui component
4. The ssscnetiit
5. a lot more bduanant
6. the agradee man

Paragraph 2

7. orerfosp Margaret McCarthy
8. language-csatdisoea
9. differences in brain and bevruhiao
10. earlier than yrosluevip thought
11. some interesting gtnhssii
12. the ainscthset of women

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () earlier and more quickly than boys. It also supports claims that women speak
- () talkative than men - three times more chatty, in fact. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language
- () sex difference in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added:
- () about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words for the average man.
- () discovered a decade ago and was deemed to be a key neurological component of speech. The scientists say it is a lot
- () protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its infancy. Readers of Britain's Daily
- () Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to report a
- () have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be heard".
- () Mail newspaper offered some interesting insights into the chattiness of women. One said women
- () "The findings raise the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [widespread], and
- () established earlier than previously [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one
- (**1**) Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might explain why women are more
- () protein" that goes by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more prevalent in women's brains. The protein was first
- () more abundant in girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

1. just to Compared man average the for words 7,000.

2. than women men are more Explain talkative why.

3. of Foxp2 A language protein that goes by the name.

4. lot a is it say scientists The girls in abundant more.

5. to Compared man average the for words 7,000 just.

6. first a is the report difference study of to sex This one.

7. are in more brain widespread and behaviour Differences.

8. speech is one for There than responsible more protein.

9. offered The some Daily interesting Mail insights newspaper.

10. themselves repeat must Women heard be to.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might explain why women are more talkative than men - three times more *chatter-box / chatty*, in fact. The research team at the University of Maryland say a "language protein" that *goes / comes* by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more *prevalent / prevalence* in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was *doomed / deemed* to be a *lock / key* neurological component of *speeches / speech*. The scientists say it is a lot more *abundance / abundant* in girls than boys. They believe the protein is the *reason / reasoning* why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also *supportive / supports* claims that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words *for / by* the average man.

Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to report a sex difference in the *expressive / expression* of a language-associated protein *in / on* humans or animals." She added: "The findings *rise / raise* the possibility that sex differences in brain and *behavioural / behaviour* are more [widespread], and established *earlier / early* than previously [thought]." Other scientists have said there is *most / more* than one protein responsible *of / for* speech and that the research is in its *infancy / infants*. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered some interesting insights *into / onto* the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be *hearing / heard*".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

R_s__rch_rs _n th_ _S_ h_v_ f__nd th_t _ pr_t__n _n th_ br__n m_gh_t _xpl__n why w_m_n _r_ m_r_t_lk_t_v_ th_n m_n - thr__ t_m_s m_r_ ch_tty, _n f_ct. Th_r_s__rch t__m _t th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f M_ryl_nd s_y _ "l_ng__g_ pr_t__n" th_t g__s by th_ n_m_ _f F_xp2 _s _ l_t m_r_ pr_v_l_nt _n w_m_n's br__ns. Th_ pr_t__n w_s f_rst d_sc_v_r_d _d_c_d__g_ _nd w_s d__m_d t_b__ k_y n__r_l_g_c_l c_m_p_n_nt _f sp__ch. Th_sc__nt_sts s_y _t_s _l_t m_r_ _b_nd_nt _n g_rls th_n b_ys. Th_y b_l__v_ th_ pr_t__n _s th_ r__s_n why g_rls st_rt sp__k_ng __r_l__r _nd m_r_ q__ckly th_n b_ys. _t_l_s_s_pp_rts cl__ms th_t w_m_n sp__k_b__t 20,000 w_rds _d_y, c_m_p_r_d t_ j_st 7,000 w_rds f_r th_ _v_r_g_m_n.

R_s__rch t__m l__d_r pr_f_ss_r M_rg_r_t McC_rthy s__d: "Th_s st_dy _s _n _f th_ f_rst t_r_p_rt _s_x d_ff_r_nc__ _n th_ _xpr_ss__n _f _ l_ng__g__ss_c__t_d pr_t__n _n h_m_ns _r _n_m_ls." Sh__dd_d: "Th_ f_nd_ngs r__s th_ p_ss_b_l_ty th_t s_x d_ff_r_nc_s _n br__n _nd b_h_v__r _r_ m_r_ [w_d_spr__d], _nd _st_b_l_sh_d __r_l__r th_n pr_v__sly [th__ght]." _th_r sc__nt_sts h_v_ s__d th_r_ _s m_r_ th_n _n pr_t__n r_sp_ns_b_l_ f_r sp__ch _nd th_t th_ r_s__rch _s _n _ts _nf_ncy. R__d_rs _f Br_t__n's D__ly M__l_n_wsp_p_r_ff_r_d s_m__nt_r_st_ng _ns_ghts _nt_ th_ ch_ttn_ss _f w_m_n. _n_s__d w_m_n h_v_ t_t_lk m_r_b_c__s, "m_n _r_n_t_g__d l_st_n_rs _nd w_m_n m_st r_p__t th_ms_lv_s t_b_h__rd".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130223-talkativeness.html>

researchers in the usa have found that a protein in the brain might explain why women are more talkative than men - three times more chatty in fact the research team at the university of maryland say a "language protein" that goes by the name of foxp2 is a lot more prevalent in women's brains the protein was first discovered a decade ago and was deemed to be a key neurological component of speech the scientists say it is a lot more abundant in girls than boys they believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys it also supports claims that women speak about 20000 words a day compared to just 7000 words for the average man

research team leader professor margaret mccarthy said "this study is one of the first to report a sex difference in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals" she added "the findings raise the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [widespread] and established earlier than previously [thought]" other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its infancy readers of britain's daily mail newspaper offered some interesting insights into the chattiness of women one said women have to talk more because "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be heard"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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Researchers in the USA have found that a protein in the brain might explain why women are more talkative than men - three times more chatty, in fact. The research team at the University of Maryland says a "language protein" that goes by the name of Foxp2 is a lot more prevalent in women's brains. The protein was first discovered a decade ago and was deemed to be a key neurological component of speech. The scientists say it is a lot more abundant in girls than boys. They believe the protein is the reason why girls start speaking earlier and more quickly than boys. It also supports a claim that women speak about 20,000 words a day, compared to just 7,000 words for the average man. Research team leader professor Margaret McCarthy said: "This study is one of the first to report a sex difference in the expression of a language-associated protein in humans or animals." She added: "The findings raise the possibility that sex differences in brain and behaviour are more [widespread], and established earlier than previously [thought]." Other scientists have said there is more than one protein responsible for speech and that the research is in its infancy. Readers of Britain's Daily Mail newspaper offered some interesting insights into the chattiness of women. One said women have to talk more because, "men are not good listeners and women must repeat themselves to be heard".

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about talkativeness. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TALKATIVENESS: Make a poster about talkativeness. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHATTY: Write a magazine article about the findings of this article. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a communication expert. Ask him/her three questions about talkativeness. Give him/her three of your opinions on who is more talkative and why. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d T e F f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. talkative | a. chatty |
| 2. goes by the name of | b. is called |
| 3. prevalent | c. widespread |
| 4. deemed | d. judged |
| 5. claims | e. assertions |
| 6. associated | f. linked |
| 7. established | g. started |
| 8. infancy | h. early days |
| 9. offered | i. provided |
| 10. insights | j. wisdom |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A protein
2. Foxp2
3. A decade
4. It's more abundant in girls than boys
5. 13,000
6. The team leader of the research
7. They said there was more than one protein responsible for speech
8. They said it's in its infancy
9. Because men are not good listeners
10. To make sure they are heard

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. b 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)