

Long live men, say data 男人也长寿

英语学习点: 有关性别的词汇 *Vocabulary: gender*

In the battle of the sexes women have always won - at least when it comes to cheating death. Although they used to be called the fairer sex, they tend on average to live several years longer than men.

However, this gap in life expectancy is closing and men could catch up by 2030, according to an adviser for the UK's Office for National Statistics.



It is thought that changes to traditional gender roles might be the cause of the shift. Dangerous jobs like coal mining remain largely the preserve of men, but now millions are in less risky office-based jobs. It may be less macho, but it's a lot safer.

Improvements in healthcare have also had an effect. Sufferers of heart disease, a condition that is more common among men, can expect to live much longer than they did a few decades ago.

On the other hand, more and more women are taking up smoking - what used to be a masculine habit. Rates of lung cancer are increasing in women but falling fast in men, who are living a healthier lifestyle.

Professor Les Mayhew of Cass Business school predicts that if these trends continue both sexes could, on average, be living to the age of 87 in 2030.

But in the Somerset village of Hinton St George, the girls are still on top. This community has the longest life expectancy in the UK. Female pensioners who are now 65 can expect to live to an average of 91.6 years, whereas old boys the same age have a predicted lifespan of 88.7 years.

Both of these figures are extremely impressive. What is the secret of Hinton St George? Dave Keirle, the local window cleaner, suggests jokingly that both sexes owe him a lot. According to the British newspaper The Guardian, he says: "Clean windows mean more light, and they say that the more vitamin D you get from the sun, the longer your life."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What could be contributing to the trend of men living longer?
2. What habit are more women taking up?
3. When might both sexes have the same life expectancy?
4. True, false or not given: *Male pensioners tend to live longer than female ones in Hinton St George.*
5. Look at the article. Can you find the expression used when referring to something usually done by men?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. We have to be in the meeting on time but please don't run or I won't be able to _____ up with you.

get	go	catch	expect
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2. When it comes to being organised, many people say that women are still _____.

on top	in the middle	on the left	the preserve of men
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3. My father is an old style gentleman. He still opens the car doors to a passenger of the _____ sex.

weaker	happier	gender	fairer
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4. I need to exercise more. I think I will _____ up rowing once a week!

do	make	take	go
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5. John has retired after 30 years working in a factory. But the _____ still keeps very active.

ancient man	macho	fairer sex	old boy
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What could be contributing to the trend of men living longer? Changes in gender roles and improvements in healthcare.
2. What habit are more women taking up? Smoking.
3. When might both sexes have the same life expectancy? In 2030.
4. True, false or not given: *Male pensioners tend to live longer than female ones in Hinton St George.* False.
5. Look at the article. Can you find the expression used when referring to something usually done by men? The preserve of men.

Exercise 练习

1. We have to be in the meeting on time but please don't run or I won't be able to catch up with you.
2. When it comes to being organised, many people say that women are still on top.
3. My father is an old style gentleman. He still opens the car doors to a passenger of the fairer sex.
4. I need to exercise more. I think I will take up rowing once a week!
5. John has retired after 30 years working in a factory. But the old boy still keeps very active.

Glossary 词汇表

the battle of the sexes	两性之间的战争
the fairer sex	老式表达, 指女性
life expectancy	寿命
to catch someone up	赶上别人
gender roles	性别角色
the preserve of men	只有男人才干的事情
macho	(俚语) 男子气概
masculine	男性, 阳性
sexes	两性
the girls are on top	女性占上风
female pensioners	女性退休人士
old boys	(俚语) 老男人们