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## **Level 2**

# **Women have to pay more in shops**

**21st January, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

Women have to pay more than men for almost the same things. A study by The Times newspaper found that many products for women cost twice as much as similar things for men. Researchers looked at hundreds of goods in shops. They found that clothes, beauty products and toys were 36 per cent more expensive than those for men and boys. One store charged \$7 more for a pink scooter than a black one. Another store charged double the price for pink razors. Researchers said women's Levi 501 jeans were 46 per cent more expensive than those for men.

The Times called this "sexist" pricing. Other people said it was a "gender tax". The chairwoman of the British government's women and equalities committee called it a "rip-off" and an example of price discrimination. Britain's Financial Times (FT) newspaper said: "Perhaps women tend to be busier and have less time to shop around. Or perhaps they care more about quality..., whereas men just want something cheap." However, the FT said men did pay more for some things. It asked why journalists did not look at price differences for things that appeal more to men.

Sources: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/money/consumeraffairs/article4668903.ece>  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b89e16da-b96c-11e5-b151-8e15c9a029fb.html>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/12066820/New-Gender-Tax-study-shows-women-are-charged-more-for-being-woman.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Women have to                    | a. men and boys          |
| 2. many products for women cost     | b. for men               |
| 3. similar things                   | c. price for pink razors |
| 4. beauty                           | d. twice as much         |
| 5. more expensive than those for    | e. those for men         |
| 6. One store charged \$7 more       | f. pay more than men     |
| 7. Another store charged double the | g. products              |
| 8. 46 per cent more expensive than  | h. for a pink scooter    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Times called this              | a. about quality           |
| 2. Other people said it was a         | b. more to men             |
| 3. the British government's women and | c. want something cheap    |
| 4. an example                         | d. equalities committee    |
| 5. they care more                     | e. "sexist" pricing        |
| 6. men just                           | f. "gender tax"            |
| 7. look at price                      | g. of price discrimination |
| 8. things that appeal                 | h. differences             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

Women have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ than men for almost the same things. A study by The Times newspaper found that many products for women (2) \_\_\_\_\_ much as similar things for men. Researchers looked (3) \_\_\_\_\_ goods in shops. They found that clothes, beauty products and toys were 36 per cent more expensive (4) \_\_\_\_\_ men and boys. One store charged \$7 more for a pink scooter than a black one. Another store (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the price for pink razors. Researchers said women's Levi 501 jeans were 46 per cent more (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for men.

The Times called this (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Other people said it was (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The chairwoman of the British government's women and equalities committee called it a "rip-off" and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ price discrimination. Britain's Financial Times (FT) newspaper said: "Perhaps women (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and have less time to shop around. Or perhaps they (11) \_\_\_\_\_ quality...,whereas men just want something cheap." However, the FT said men did pay more for some things. It asked why journalists did not look at price differences for things that (12) \_\_\_\_\_ men.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

Womenhavetopaymorethanmenforalmostthesamethings.Astudyby  
TheTimesnewspaperfoundthatmanyproductsforwomencosttwiceas  
muchassimilarthingsformen.Researcherslookedathundredsofgoods  
inshops.Theyfoundthatclothes,beautyproductsandtoyswere36perc  
entmoreexpensivethanthoseformenandboys.Onestorecharged\$7m  
oreforapinkscooterthanablackone.Anotherstorechargeddoublethep  
riceforpinkrazors.Researcherssaidwomen'sLevi501jeanswere46per  
centmoreexpensivethanthoseformen.TheTimescalledthis"sexist"pri  
cing.Otherpeoplesaiditwasa"gendertax".ThechairwomanoftheBritis  
hgovernment'swomenandequalitiescommitteecalledita"rip-off"an  
danexampleofpricediscrimination.Britain'sFinancialTimes(FT)news  
papersaid:"Perhapswomentendtobebusierandhavelesstimetoshopa  
round.Orperhapstheycaremoreaboutquality...,whereasmenjustwan  
tsomethingcheap."However,theFTsaidmendidpaymoreforsomethin  
gs.Itaskedwhyjournalistsdidnotlookatpricedifferencesforthingsthat  
appealmoretomen.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Women have to pay more in shops – 21st January, 2016*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160121-gender-tax-2.html>

Write about **women shopping** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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