

HOW DO AMERICANS DEFINE MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY?

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MASCULINE CHARACTERISTICS

Act as a leader
Aggressive
Ambitious
Analytical
Assertive
Athletic
Competitive
Defends own beliefs
Dominant
Forceful
Independent
Individualistic
Leadership ability
Makes decisions easily
Masculine
Self-reliant
Self-sufficient
Strong personality
Willing to take a stand
Willing to take risks

FEMININE CHARACTERISTICS

Affectionate
Cheerful
Childlike
Compassionate
Does not use harsh language
Eager to soothe feelings
Feminine
Flatterable
Gentle
Gullible
Loves children
Loyal
Sensitive to others needs
Shy
Soft-spoken
Sympathetic
Tender
Understanding
Warm
Yielding

ALL THE REST ARE NEUTRAL !!

Although you may find some overlap and have differences of opinion, researchers selected the masculine and feminine items as most indicative of masculine and feminine behavior in our society. If you identified the 20 masculine and 20 feminine characteristics in the above test the same way the researchers did, you show an awareness of conventional cultural norms indicating masculine and feminine. If you labeled more of these characteristics as either masculine or feminine, you may place too much emphasis on what is considered neutral behavior. If you chose more masculine or more feminine characteristics “correctly”, it could mean you understand the cultural conventions of one sex better than the other.

Your selection has nothing to do with your own personal gender characteristics but simply reflects your understanding of and ability to identify society’s gender stereotypes.



**OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING
YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.**