

Reported Differences Between Feminine and Masculine Communication

Feminine Talk

1. Use talk to build and sustain rapport with others.
2. Share yourself and learn about others through disclosing.
3. Use talk to create symmetry or equality between people.
4. Matching experiences with others shows understanding and empathy (e.g., "I know how you feel").
5. To support others, express understanding of their feelings.
6. Include others in conversation by asking their opinions and encouraging them to elaborate. Wait your turn to speak so others can participate.
7. Keep the conversation going by asking questions and showing interest in others' ideas.
8. Be responsive. Let others know you hear and care about what they say.
9. Be tentative so that others feel free to add their ideas.
10. Talking is a human relationship in which details and interesting side comments enhance depth of connection.

Masculine Talk

1. Use talk to assert yourself and your ideas.
2. Personal disclosure can make you vulnerable.
3. Use talk to establish your status and power.
4. Matching experiences is a competitive strategy to command attention (e.g., "I can top that").
5. To support others, do something helpful-give advice or solve a problem for them.
6. Don't share the talk stage with others; wrest it from them with communication. Interrupt others to make your own points.
7. Each person is on her or his own; it's not your job to help others join in.
8. Use responses to make your own points and to outshine others.
9. Be assertive so that others perceive you as confident and in command.
10. Talking is a linear sequence that should convey information and accomplish goals. Extraneous details get in the way and achieve nothing.

