

Women more attracted to men in expensive cars

It is a well-known fact that women prefer men with expensive cars. Now research has proved this point, Britain's *Daily Telegraph* recently reported. A university team at the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff showed women pictures of the same man sitting in two cars – a £70,000 silver Bentley Continental and a battered old Ford Fiesta. The women who were aged between 21-40, picked the man sitting in the Bentley ahead of the same man in the Ford. Dr Michael Dunn from the university said, "It shows women rate a man higher if he is behind the wheel of a fancy motor rather than an old banger." The findings published recently in the *British Journal of Psychology* show that men are more interested in a woman's looks not her motor. The researchers say the men tested in the same way are not impressed by whatever car a woman drives because they judge purely on her face and figure.

Dr Dunn: "Our findings confirm that women judge a man by his wealth and status whereas men are primarily concerned with what a woman looks like. He added, "There's a wide variety of evidence that does suggest that females are more influenced by wealth and status. It's not a recent phenomenon. It is very ingrained and the evidence is not just anecdotal." He continued, "Females focus on questions of wealth and status because if the male possesses those, that male would be in a better condition to rear healthy offspring." Dr Dunn believes this basic human trait will not change in the future: "Even as women become more independent and wealthy in their own rights. It appears that stereotyping of women being positively influenced by a man's status is true and evolutionarily speaking, this makes sense. However, even with the growing number of women in high-paid careers and the fact that they can be highly successful has no effect on how attractive they are to men. What you find is that these new wealthy women still show a preference for high status males."

His researchers plan to carry out further studies - to guide men buying expensive cars in mid-life crisis. Dr Dunn, who admits to driving an old Ford Ka, will examine if high-status items like expensive cars can help make up for "the attractiveness-diminishing effects of age."

Category: Survey / Women / Expensive Cars
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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In other words do middle aged men in expensive cars seem more attractive to women despite their grey hair and expanding waistline? Dr Dunn admitted that his research could also be interpreted as evidence that women are shallower than men. He said, "Let's face it – there's evidence to support it."

EXERCISES

1. Expensive cars: What are your favourite expensive cars? Are they sports/saloon/estate/4x4 cars? How luxurious are they? Who drives them? Go round the room swapping stories.

2. Reading: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

3. Vocabulary: Students look through the article. Underline/highlight any vocabulary you do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through & explain any words or phrases you do not understand.

4. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) Is it true? Why? Why not?

5. Women like men with... Women like men with... see below. Discuss each point with your partner. What are your conclusions? Why?

- 1) ambition
- 2) status
- 3) financial resources
- 4) educational level
- 5) physical

6. Women are more attracted to men... Women are more attracted to *men/a man*... Add two choices of your own. Choose your top three from the list below. (Imagine!) Which is *true/false*? Which one is best? Which one might encourage a marriage? Which is least true? Discuss and compare with your partner.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1) ...in expensive cars | 7) ...who have a sense of humour |
| 2) ...with an expensive luxury flat | 8) ...with balding hair |
| 3) ...a large bank account! | 9) ...with a full head of hair |
| 4) ...who look like Brad Pitt | 10) ...who drive an old Lada/Skoda/car |
| 5) ...who take them on an expensive holiday | 11) ...who is a gentleman |
| 6) ...who have an expensive motorbike | 12) ...who drive a truck |
- Your choice 1 _____ Your choice 2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class

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7. **Let's think!** Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **Men in expensive cars** as you can. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

8. **Sentences:** Choose six/nine of the words from No 7. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

9. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the newspaper.
- 2) Name the journal.
- 3) What do females focus on?
- 4) What are men more interested in?
- 5) Finish the sentence – Women rate a man...

Student B

- 1) Men judge what?
- 2) What cars are mentioned?
- 3) Middle aged men in expensive cars are what?
- 4) Middle aged men have?
- 5) Women are _____ than men?

10. **Quick debate:** In pairs. Students A thinks women are shallower than men. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

11. **Men are more attracted to women...** Men are more attracted to women... Add two choices of your own. Choose your top three from the list below. (Imagine!) Which is *true/false*? Which one is best? Which one might encourage a marriage? Which is least true? Discuss and compare with your partner.

1) ...who are attractive	8) ...who are older than them
2) ...who look like a model	9) ...who are younger than them
3) ...who have a nice butt/a***	10) ...who have big boobs
4) ...who have nice legs	11) ...who are fat
5) ...who have a brain	12) ...who have personality
6) ...who drive an expensive car	13) ...who are career women
7) ...who want kids	14) ...who stay at home
Your choice 1 _____	Your choice 2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

12. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare with what other people have written.

- a) Women like _____
- b) Rich men _____

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DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What car do you drive?
- 3) Are more women attracted to men in expensive cars? Why?
- 4) Women finding men attractive when they drive expensive cars - is this an old reinvented theory? Explain.
- 5) Historically what did women look for in men before the motor car was invented?
- 6) Who are you attracted to?
- 7) Do you know *any/many* women who have married a man because he had an expensive car?
- 8) Do women focus on wealth and status?
- 9) What do you focus on in a relationship?
- 10) Does marrying a rich man mean healthy offspring?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you drive an expensive car?
- 3) Are women who marry rich men gold diggers?
- 4) Why aren't men attracted to women who drive expensive cars?
- 5) Why are men more attracted by a woman's looks?
- 6) Do you know *many/any* women who drive an expensive car?
- 7) Would you like an expensive car? Which one? Why?
- 8) Wouldn't you be happier driving around in an old battered Ford Fiesta/other old car? Why? Why not?
- 9) Is it true that men who drive expensive cars are healthier than men who drive old battered cars?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Attraction

Allow 10-15 minutes - Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

The power of attraction! What attracts you? Look at the list below. Which is more appealing? Go round the room. Find out what other students have written down. Compare!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Most attractive car | 6) Most attractive beach |
| 2) Most attractive famous woman | 7) Most attractive property |
| 3) Most attractive famous man | 8) Most attractive job |
| 4) Most attractive expensive car | 9) Most attractive date |
| 5) Most attractive old car | 10) Most attractive city |

The teacher can moderate the session.

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GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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fancy
old banger
battered
university
research
figure
women
judge

Dr Dunn: "Our findings confirm that women judge a man by his _____ and status whereas men are _____ concerned with what a woman looks like. He added, "There's a wide variety of evidence that does suggest that females are more influenced by wealth and _____. It's not a recent phenomenon. It is very ingrained and the evidence is not just anecdotal." He continued, "_____ focus on questions of wealth and status because if the male possesses those, that male would be in a better condition to rear healthy _____." Dr Dunn believes this basic human _____ will not change in the future: "Even as women become more _____ and wealthy in their own rights. It appears that stereotyping of women being positively influenced by a man's status is true and evolutionarily speaking, this makes sense. However, even with the growing number of women in high-paid careers and the fact that they can be highly successful has no effect on how attractive they are to men. What you find is that these new wealthy women still show a _____ for high status males."

wealth
status
primarily
independent
females
preferment
trait
offspring

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	attractiveness	11	diminishing
2	independent	12	phenomenon
3	university	13	expensive
4	interpreted	14	preferment
5	institute	15	banger
6	shallower	16	anecdotal
7	stereotyping	17	evidence
8	primarily	18	evolutionary
9	waistline	19	influenced
10	researchers	20	successful

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