

English *Zusatzprüfungen* Part 2
20 May 2022
Fachhochschule Vorarlberg

Welcome to Part 2 of the English *Zusatzprüfungen*. Part 2 consists of writing A) a summary and B) an essay. You have two hours.

Before you begin typing, please open up a new document in Word. Give this Word document the file name '**20 May 2022_ZP-Englisch_Your Last Name_Your First Name**'. Select Calibri 12, set the line spacing to double, type your name in the top right-hand margin and enter the page number. Your name and the page number should appear on all the pages. At the end of each text you should write the number of words you have written, for example, 'WORDS: 125'.

Please read the instructions carefully.

When you have finished the exam, please save your Word document as a PDF file (Datei > speichern unter > Dateiformat > Exportformate PDF > Optimal zum Drucken > Exportieren).

Part 2: A. Summary

Read the article below and write a **100-150-word summary** using **your own** words as far as possible. Please use Calibri 12, double spacing, and write the number of words at the end of your summary.

Taking turns at talking

It is widely thought in the West that women talk more than men. One popular-science book called "The Female Brain" said they use three times as many words per day as men. Maybe that is why senators kept interrupting Kamala Harris, a Californian senator, during her questioning of Jeff Sessions, America's attorney-general, at a hearing on June 13th. Or why Jim Holt, hosting a panel on cosmology at a science festival in New York, repeatedly talked over Veronika Hubeny, the one woman in the group. Women will talk forever if you don't stop them.

Except that there is not a whit of evidence that women do talk more than men. Abby Kaplan, a linguist at the University of Utah, summarized all the facts in "Women Talk More Than Men...And Other Myths About Language Explained". Researchers have given men and women in groups a task to complete, observed classroom interactions, required mixed sex groups to reach a joint political agreement, and recorded romantic partners in their homes. No study has shown women talking more, and some (like the romantic-couples study) found them talking rather less.

In the best study of a large sample of natural speech, researchers recorded six groups of university students (five in America, one in Mexico) wearing devices that would randomly switch on and record them over the course of several days. The result? Members of both sexes spoke a

statistically indistinguishable average of around 16,000 words daily. This average was dwarfed by differences within each sex, with some taciturn types speaking just a few thousand words, and a few motor-mouths as many as 50,000.

Yet people hear women talking more. This might be because women and men speak differently. There is some evidence for this. In some studies, women take more speaking turns, but men take longer ones. In one study, women were more likely to offer reactions ("yeah" or "that's right") and men more likely to offer answers.

Some linguists, like Deborah Tannen of Georgetown University, argue that women and men tend to have different goals when talking: men are more likely to seek status and exchange information, whereas women are more likely to seek connection and exchange affirmation.

Speakers of both sexes need the full suite of skills: explaining, problem-solving, interrupting, supporting and more. Some people think that women are just biologically better at one kind, and men at another. Culture, though, explains plenty, too. It's not everywhere that men are expected to be the blunt, competitive, problem-solving sex and women the comforters. In rural Madagascar, men are prized for kabary: flowery, indirect speech that avoids putting other people on the spot, a mode that is thought to be beyond women's abilities.

Part 2: B. Essay

Write an essay about the following topic: **What is truth? The influence of mass media on public opinion**

(Besides television, newspapers, magazines, radio, you might want to consider blogs, Twitter, Instagram etc.)

Your essay should contain an introduction, a conclusion and

- consider your own media consumption and how that has affected your opinions
- consider how mass media affects public opinion in general

Write **400-450 words**. Use Calibri 12, double spacing, and write the number of words at the end of your essay.

END OF QUESTIONS