
Many thanks to Paola Francesi for providing this transcript

Jackie: Hello and welcome to 6 minutes English with me Jackie Dalton. Today we are going to be talking about **intelligence**. Do we think we are more **clever** than we really are? We'll be discussing the results of a major study.

But first I'm joined by Callum Robertson and I'm going to kick off Callum with a question that you have to answer.

Callum: Hello Jackie. Yes, I'll do my best.

Jackie: Here we go, the word **intelligence** comes from the Latin verb "intelligeri". Does it mean : to *see*, to *know* or to *understand*?

Callum: Didn't study Latin at school, don't know; I'm going to make a guess, I'm going to say to *see*?

Jackie: Ok, well, you'll have to wait until the end of the programme to find out whether or not you are correct.

I've got another question for you though and that's how **intelligent** do you think you are compared to other people?

Callum: Ah well it depends on which other people I'm comparing myself to. I would say I'm more **intelligent** than some people and less **intelligent** than many many other people.

Jackie: Ok, well, I won't ask you to name the people you think are less **intelligent** than you.

Today we're talking about results of a major study that's been done on **intelligence** and about the difference on how women and men perceive or see their own **intelligence**. But before we do that, shall we chat about some of the language that we might hear when talking about intelligence? Obviously there's the word to be **intelligent**," he is **intelligent**".

Callum: Yeah yeah there are a number of other adjectives we use which have a similar meaning which you can use for different kinds of people, different situations, for example, when talking about children, we often use the adjective **bright**, "she's very **bright**", she's a very **bright** child and, we can also use **smart**, "he's a **smart** child".

Jackie: Hmm, quite an informal word

Callum: Yeah yeah, 'she's very **smart**' and generally we'd say that somebody can be **clever**, or **sharp** is another nice one, "he's very **sharp**" and also to be **quick**, to be **quick**, "he's very **quick**, she's very **quick**."

Jackie: So, there's **bright**, **smart**, **clever**, **sharp** and **quick**.

There's been a study about thousands of people in 30 countries to find out whether men rate their own **intelligence** higher than women rate their own **intelligence** and the findings were that men in all the countries rate themselves as **brighter** than women rate themselves. Are they right though? Is it true that men are more **intelligent** than women? Well, Professor Adrian Furnham from University College, London, carried out the study, so listen to him to find out.

Professor Furnham

The data suggest from very large studies that they are not, there are very slight differences,

men do tend to be better at **spacial intelligence task** but overall but women are not less **intelligent** than men, data seem to suggest that women are tending to be more humble about their abilities and men more arrogant. More data suggest that men are arrogant rather than women are humble.

Jackie: You're listening to bbclearningenglish.com so from that clip it seems that actually men are not necessarily more **intelligent** than women.

Callum: They just think they are...

Jackie: They just think they are although they're maybe better in some areas, like **spacial intelligence**.

Callum: Yeah, that's one of those areas which I suppose, an easy example is about parking your car, it's traditionally held that men are better at parking. It's because men generally, according to the survey have better **spacial intelligence**, it's kind of awareness of the space around you. But I don't know how true that is, because sometimes I find it really difficult to park.

Jackie: Another word which came up there which is quite useful is **ability**, he said women are more humble about their **abilities** than men. **Abilities** are basically things that you can do.

Callum: Yeah, yeah, it's something that you know, you have a **skill** in which is another word. You talked about people having, for example, a mathematical **ability**, or a musical **ability**.

Jackie: And we can also talk about **talents** or **gifts** which are more a kind of natural **ability**, maybe something that you are born with, so "**he's a talented artist**", **she has a talent for drawing, he's a talented singer**.

Callum: Yes, we use this preposition, **to have a talent for something**, yes these are

more more things that you can do naturally, rather than things that you have learnt or studied to do.

Jackie: Well, moving on now, does it matter that men rate their own **abilities** more highly than women do and does it affect how well we do in life. Listen to Dr Furnham to find out.

Professor Furnham

Ford said whether you believe you can or you can't you are right. And I think these self beliefs are very important, they are very self fulfilling. I think if people are confident then others assume that they have something to be confident about, that they are **intelligent**, that they are capable and that confidence therefore people assume that they have these abilities which they might not have in great number, and that of course, that confidence does help one greatly to be more bold, to make more dramatic decisions, sometimes they have huge advantages.

Jackie: Self beliefs are very self fulfilling.....

Callum: Yeah, if you have confidence in your ability to do something, then you are more likely to be able to do it and if you don't have confidence in your **ability**, even if you have the **skill**, the **knowledge** and the **talent**, if you don't believe you can do it, you are less likely to do it.

Jackie: So did you have confidence in your ability to answer my question at the beginning of the programme?

Callum: Well, I have confidence in my ability to answer, but not confidence in my ability to answer correctly.

Jackie: Ok, well, you were absolutely right, not to have confidence in your answer... You said the verb 'intelligeri' means to *see*, but actually it means to *understand*. Never mind, maybe next time.

Callum: So just because you have confidence, it doesn't always mean you are actually right.

Jackie: You're not always going to succeed. That's all we have time for this week, let's have a look at a couple of quotations for the week. This one from Albert Camus, he said "*An intellectual is someone whose mind watches itself*".

Callum: And Albert Einstein said: "*We should take care not to make the intellect our God, it has of course powerful muscles, but no personality*".

Jackie: So, intelligence is important, but not everything. Thank you very much for joining us this week and we'll be back again next week but for now goodbye.

Callum: Goodbye....