



LANGUE VIVANTE I

ANGLAIS

Gender Wage Gap : Are you paid as much as a man if he had your job?

How much money are you losing because you're not paid fairly? Most working women today, if they're over thirty, would probably say : "Quite a lot ! Anyway, men would be getting more".

5 Their intuitive sense is borne out by the facts. Women working full time – not part time, not on maternity leave, not as consultants – still earn only 77 cents for every full-time male dollar. This wage gap exists between women and men working at every economic level, from waitresses to corporate lawyers, from nurse's aides to CEOs.

Very few individual women can ever find out exactly what their male counterparts would be making in the same job. But that yawning gap between the average male and average female paycheck is a pretty good clue that he'd be paid more.

10 Few women think about it this way. Women don't talk about what they should have earned, or how each year's missing lump of money – whether one thousand, ten thousand, or fifty thousand – would have added up over lifetime. Surely **that attitude** is personally sensible: no sane person wants to worry about what she believes she can't have. But we're not going to close the gender wage gap until women realize how much **it's** costing us and our families.

15 Of course, your losses aren't subtracted in one lump sum. That money disappears over time, in small cuts to your paycheck. Maybe **you** were hired for \$ 1,000 less than the young man who took the same entry level job. Or you got a smaller year-end bonus because you and the man working alongside you were awarded bonuses as percentage of salary – and his salary is larger. Or you had to wait longer for a promotion because you had to prove yourself first, while your male colleague was promoted and given a raise based on his potential. Or you were passed over for a project that would have brought in a large bonus, because the boss assumed you had to go home and cook for your family.

20 Each such loss accrues. Many of us have seen those investment charts that show how much \$1,000 invested today would turn into over ten or twenty or thirty years. That's what happens to the money you weren't paid: it doesn't just add up, it multiplies over time.

25 Why do you and other women lose so much money? Decades ago, women used to hear that it was because women weren't as well-educated as men, hadn't worked as long as men, didn't work as hard as men, or really didn't need the money because they were just working until they got married. That's no longer true. For decades, women have been graduating from college at the same rate as men – and have even surpassed men in recent years. Women work as hard as men. Women are often supporting children, and maybe a disabled or unemployed husband, and need the money just as much as men do. Often, married couples rely on **both** paychecks. The only demographic difference between male and female workers is a small, and closing, difference in the length of years women have worked in their careers. That cannot account for 23 cents.

Adapted from Evelyn Murphy with E.J. Graff, Thursday, 02 April 2009.

- Notes** : 1. CEO : Chief Executive Officer (Directeur Général) 2. A lump sum : une somme forfaitaire
3. Yawning gap = écart important /béant 4. 100 cents = 1 dollar

I. **COMPREHENSION** (08 marks)

A. **Vocabulary in context** : Match the following words or phrases with their equivalents in the text (6 x 0.25 = 1.5 marks)

1	Time off for women who have just Delivered a baby	
2	Money paid daily or weekly	
3	Someone doing the same job as you	
4	To gain money or salary	
5	Extra money added to the salary	
6	A percentage	

B. **Referencing** : What or who do the underlined words in the text refer to ? (4 x 0.5 = 2 marks)

7. That attitude (line 12) :
8. It (it's costing us and our families) (line 13) :
9. You (Maybe you were hired...) (line 16) :
10. Both (paychecks) (line 30) :

LANGUE VIVANTE I

C. **Are the following statements true or false ? Circle T or F and justify your answers by quoting from the text a specific passage.** (3 x1 = 3 marks)

- 11. According to the writer, a working woman earns fifty per cent less than her male counterpart.
T/F.....;
Justification :
- 12. The fact that working women are not as well paid as men affect them as well as their families.
T/F.....
Justification :
- 13. The gender wage gap is quite fair because women are less educated than men.
T / F.....
Justification.....

D. **Cloze test : Fill in the blanks with relevant words from the text. Use only one word in each gap** (6 x 0.25 = 1.5 marks)

The narrator seems to express her disagreement on the gender.....gap that
14
many.....women have been suffering from for quite a long time. She believes
15
that the assertion according to which they are not as well educated as their male.....
16
is simply groundless. Moreover, they often need to their children as well as
17
their disabled or.....spouses, which is a heavy burden. For all these reasons,
18
she thinks that they deserve to be well.....
19

II. **COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE** (06 marks)

E. **Fill in the gaps with the right form of the words in parentheses** (2 x 0.5 = 1 mark)

- 20. Sharing expenses in a household is more..... (economy) for a couple.
- 21. Because of their falling purchasing power, people living in urban areas are getting more and more
..... (individual)

F. **Penda, an accountant in a company, has gone to see her boss to discuss her wage. Complete the dialogue meaningfully and coherently.** (2,5 marks)

The Boss : Good morning, Penda ! Have a seat, 22..... ? What can I do for you?
Penda : I would like to talk about my wage. I think I need a pay raise.
The Boss : 23. ?
Penda : I've been working here for ten years now and I don't understand why Biram, who's doing the same job as me, is better paid than I am . We have the same qualifications, 24. ?
The Boss : You're right ! I need to think it over ! Give me some time, 25. ?
Penda : Yes ! Thank you, sir !

G. **Reporting** (2,5 marks)
Find below an extract of a speech made by a lady who faces discrimination in her country. Report what she says, reflecting her feelings with (to believe, to wish to wonder).

"... In many countries like mine, women are discriminated against. Why do men underestimate us ? It's really a pity that governments don't take the appropriate measures to put an end to this situation..." ?
26. The lady
.....
.....

III. **WRITING** (06 marks)

Choose one topic and write about 150-200 words

Topic 1 : Despite women's considerable contribution to the world economy, some men still believe that their place is at home. Do you share their point of view ? Why or why not ?

Topic 2 : Fanta is a young CEO (Chief Executive Officer) who wants to get married with a man in a lower social and professional position. She has a discussion with her friend Aïda who is trying to dissuade her to do so. Complete their conversation.

Aïda : Listen , Fanta ! If I were you, I wouldn't get married with that man.

Fanta : Well, Aïda !

LANGUE VIVANTE IANSWER KEYI. COMPREHANSION

(08 marks)

A. Vocabulary in context

(6 x 0.25 mark = 1.5 marks)

1: Maternity leave 2 : wage 3: counterpart 4 : earn 5: bonus 6 : percentage

B. Referencing

(4 x 0.5 mark = 2 marks)

7. that attitude (line 13) : the fact that women don't talk about how much they are losing / what they should have earned

8. it (line 15) : gender wage gap

9. you (line 18) : working women

10. both (line 35) : couple / men and women / husband and wife

C. True or False

(3 x 1 mark = 3 marks)

11. **False** : "Women working...still earn only 77 cents for every full-time male dollar"12. **True** : "women are often supporting children, and maybe a disabled or unemployed husband...."

(or) "But we're not going to realize how much it's costing our families"

13. **False** : "For decades, women have been graduatingmen in recent years"D. Cloze test

(6 x 0.25 mark = 1.5 marks)

1. wage ; 15. Working ; 16. Counterparts ; 17. Support ;
18 unemployed ; 19. PaidII COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

(06 marks)

E. Word formation

(2 x 0.5 mark = 1 mark)

20. economical ; 21. Individualistic

F.

(2.5 marks)

22. Will you ?

23.(Any coherent answer)

24. don't we ?

25. will you ?

G. Reporting

(2.5 marks)

26. The lady believes that in many countries like hers women are discriminated against. (So) She wonders why men underestimate them. She wishes that governments (would take) took the appropriate measures to put an end to the situation..III. WRITING

(06 marks)

Relevance to the topic : 2 marks**Cohesion and coherence** : 2 marks**Accuracy and Language** : 2 marks