



### Gender Stereotype in Occupation

My wife and I responded to different occupations with what gender we thought of first when hearing them. The occupations included doctor, lawyer, school teacher, taxi driver, dancer, baby sitter, chef, pilot, mechanic, architect, designer, make-up artist, system engineer. We had several answers that were the same, and some that were different. However, there were clear trends in our similar answers.

Seven of our answers were “male” and six were “female”. Although similar in quantity, my wife and I only agreed on 9 of 13 occupations. We both chose “male” for lawyer, taxi driver, pilot, mechanic, and system engineer. We both chose “female” for school teacher, dancer, babysitter, and designer. We differed on doctor, chef, architect, and make-up artist. Trend-wise, we chose “male” for professions that involved machinery, such as vehicles and electronic equipment. For comparison, I asked my 13-year-old son his choices. Surprisingly, his answers were exactly identical to my wife’s.

I believe exposure might play a large role in these decisions. For example, I chose “female” for chef because I primarily think about my wife (a chef), as well as my favorite celebrity chefs being female. On the other hand, my wife and son chose “female” for doctor, because all of their doctors have been female, while mine have all been male. While there is clearly male-dominated fields of employment, both males and females can perform, and be highly successful, at all the occupations presented.