

## Sources and Resources for “He Said, She Said”

### Language and the gender divide

The radio programme that lesson plan, test and key are based on was originally called “He Said, She Said” and is part of a series called “Fry’s English Delight” broadcast by BBC Radio 4. Its website gives a synopsis as well as bits of the interview for listening online here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00tdmqr>

In these programmes the actor, author and presenter Stephen Fry –

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Fry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Fry)

– has been exploring aspects of the English language since 2009.

Fry’s English Delight Series 3 was broadcast in 2010 and among its four programmes there is “He Said, She Said”. Here is an overview of these programmes:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00lv1k1/episodes>

In this programme, “He Said, She Said”, he interviews among others Deborah Cameron, an expert in Linguistics and Women’s Studies.

<http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/about-faculty/faculty-members/language-and-linguistics/cameron-professor-deborah>

Sue MacGregor talks about the gender politics and power politics she experienced in her time as a BBC presenter. For 17 years she fronted the Radio 4’s flagship programme “Today”. Learn more about her here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/people/presenters/sue-macgregor/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue\\_MacGregor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sue_MacGregor)

### How to get hold of the audio file

Like the other parts of this series, the CD Fry’s English Delight Series 3 is available commercially, e.g. at these addresses:

<http://www.bbcshop.com/comedy/frys-english-delight-series-3/invnt/9781408467497/>

[http://www.buecher.de/shop/englisch/frys-english-delight-series-3-2-audio-cds/fry-stephen/products\\_products/detail/prod\\_id/29883303/](http://www.buecher.de/shop/englisch/frys-english-delight-series-3-2-audio-cds/fry-stephen/products_products/detail/prod_id/29883303/)

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/frys-english-delight-complete/id422232291>

<http://www.amazon.de/Frys-English-Delight-Stephen-Fry/dp/1408467496>

### Gender-neutral language Political Correctness

The increasing use of gender-neutral or gender-fair language is not only due to political correctness or simply common decency but also to women’s success in academia and the economy.

Moreover, using exclusively masculine forms when referring to both sexes might be considered boorish and backward in some circles.

In short, language should avoid a gender bias and try to achieve gender-balance instead.

Tips on how to express oneself appropriately are to be found e.g. at these addresses:

<http://www.mywritertools.com/gb.asp>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Address-a-Female-Chairperson>

<http://www.lettersforbusiness.com/business-writing-gender-neutral-writing-names-and-titles.htm>

<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/pdf/GenderNeutralCourtroomProcedures-NoCovers.pdf>