

## Gender and Non-Verbal Communication

Here are some differences between males and females regarding non-verbal communication. Each example is based on at least one research study, most on two or more. Some differences are dependent on age and culture.

Remember, these studies are based on tendencies and cannot predict individual behavior.

<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>
Claim less territory as their own.	More likely to have a room at home (den, study, workshop, office) that is off limits to others.
Women stand closer to each other in conversation.	Men maintain greater distance from each other.
Women use more eye contact than men.	Men use less eye contact.
Women use more facial expression and are generally more expressive.	Men reveal less emotion than women through facial expressions.
Women are more likely to return a smile when smiled at. Women smile more.	Men smile less than women.
Women take up less space – they hold legs more together and keep arms close to their bodies.	Men tend to have legs apart at 10-15 degree angle and hold arms 5-10 degrees away from their bodies.
Women stand farther away from people who speak loudly	Men maintain the same distance whether people speak loudly or normally.
Women use fewer gestures than men. Women use more gestures with men than with other women. Women use more gestures when seeking approval.	Men use more gestures than women in general social situations. Men use about the same amount of gestures with men or women.
Women tend to cross legs at the knees or cross ankles with knees slightly apart.	Men tend to sit with legs apart or with legs stretched out in front of them and ankles crossed.
Women play with hair or clothing, and place their hands in their laps.	Men use sweeping arm and hand gestures.
Situation: Man and woman sit next to each other on an airplane. Which most often uses the armrest in the middle?	In a study of 426 male-female pairs, 284 men claimed the armrest and only 57 women.
Women are approached by both sexes more closely than are men.	Men have more negative reactions to crowding.
Women do not necessarily interpret a man's touch as a sexual invitation.	Men often interpret a woman's touch as a sexual invitation.
Women tend to keep hands on the arms of a chair.	Men rarely keep hands on the arms of chairs.