

He Said, She Said

"Does My Butt Look Big?"

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Photos by Lisa K. Miller

Are men really from Mars and Women from Venus, as author Dr. John Gray states in his bestselling book? Do men and women really see things that differently? If given the same question could their answers really be so different? At San Diego Woman we wanted to explore the differences between "them" and "us". Read this month's installment and find out how the sexes differ when it comes to communicating with each other. What topics would you like to see us duke it out over in upcoming issues? No topic is off limits, so write me at editor@sandiegowoman.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

He Said...

From the beginning of time men have been burdened with the unanswerable questions posed by the female in our life. Be it girlfriend, wife, or partner, there has always been the no-win query and the price to pay - forever. You know, "Do these pants make my butt look too big?" Or, "How do you like my hair this way?" Here's another death trap, "Do you think she's pretty?" I can tell you that without

Here's the scenario, you say, "Do these pants make my butt look too big?" We say, "Honey, you look good in everything you wear." You say, "So you say it looks Big?!!!!" We say, "No, I didn't say that. I said you look good in your clothes." You say, "So, you're lying to me?" We say, "No, honey, I think you look fine." It goes downhill from here, once you've heard the word 'fine.' There is no definition in the dictionary for how a woman can say 'fine.'



exception every man who has survived trying to answer any of the aforementioned questions, he protects himself mightily with verbal deflections or football. You know these are traps and yet you continue to lob them onto our side of the court as if the answer would somehow be pleasing and right at the same time. I refer to the time-worn maxim; insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

There are no correct answers. If you have to ask if an article of clothing makes a body part look too big or too small you already know the answer! Why involve us?

Men are simple. We're the bottom rung on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Food, water, air, shelter, love, and sex. We're (mostly) that simple. Hear me out. Rhetorical questions never beg the question. Once more: Rhetorical questions never beg the question. By asking us something so loaded what can you possibly expect? Our questions are succinct and to the point: What's for dinner? If you like that car let's go buy it. Would you marry me? See what I mean.

I have tried the honest route. The monetary cost of truth grows exponentially on the route to your forgiveness. Flowers. Diamonds and jewelry. Dinner. Vacations. Having Mom stay with us for a month. The gist of this is simple: Just tell us what you want! What version of the truth do you want to hear? You say we don't communicate enough and open up, well guess why. It's like a minefield every time we enter the abyss of any sentence that starts with, "Honey, does..." give us a break.

Oh, you trip us up too. Once in a while you sneak in a truly simple question, one that doesn't require the armor. "Hey, hon, I'm going to pick up Chinese for dinner tonight, do you want Won Ton?" We go into defense mode, radar running, seeking the pot hole we're about to trip over. But you've hit us with the basic, bottom rung question and we instinctively answer. And before you get home with the goods, we're cowering in the corner waiting for the inevitable, "you know, if you didn't want Chinese why didn't you just say so?" Here we go again.

She Said...

Ok, obviously someone doesn't truly understand women. Of course we are going to ask you if these pants make us look fat, because no matter

how thin a woman is she needs constant reassurance. Why you may ask? Maybe, because every magazine, TV and movie is full of painfully skinny actresses who are always on a diet. Men are not faced with the same unreasonable expectations.

Let's face it when it comes down to it, men are just as insecure as women - only over different issues. No you never ask us if your butt looks big in your trousers, but you do ask other more intimate and serious questions. After a stellar performance on your part, do you not pose the question "How was it?" And let's face it; do you want to know the truth anymore than we want to know if our butts look big? Probably not, so don't point out women as being the only ones that pray for kindness and hope that you will tell us the truth we want to hear. And getting back to the word "fine." Would you want our response to be "fine" to the above mentioned question? Fine is a word that needs to be removed from the

want to have a conversation. Perhaps, these are the times when we can no longer deal with the grunts that come from the couch in response to our reliving of the day's events. Are you really that uninterested in hearing about our day, or is it that no matter what we say you would not have interest: That when you arrive home you consider it as your time to relax, kick back and be left alone? See, things are different with women. We blast through the door from work and start on job number two, or is it three? We converse with the kids, help with homework while defrosting dinner, and answer myriad questions which usually start with the infamous one that I am often met with before I have even put down my computer bag, "What's for dinner?" Perhaps we should try sitting on the couch, remote in hand and grunt in response to all of the questions thrown at us. Somehow I don't think the men out there would think that was "fine"



English Dictionary and should only be used when referring to China or Dining, but definitely not as an adjective about how we look in our butt slimming pants. Men are definitely simpler creatures to understand as you generally wear your hearts on your sleeves. It does seem to be that men are more straight forward (or is the word tactless) than women. As long as your basic needs are met, you tend to be happy. So perhaps women are more complex. Is that really a problem? As a wise woman recently said, "If we all sang the same note, there would be no harmony." So different can be good, and should not be scorned upon. There are times when we want a straight forward answer from you; there are even times when we just

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