

Men developed deep voices to scare other men

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Scientists have cast new light on why some men have deeper voices than others. It was traditionally thought that males developed a lower pitched voice to attract members of the opposite sex. However, anthropologists at the American college Penn State believe a deep voice was to scare off

other males. Researcher David Puts said: "In humans, and possibly other primates too, a low pitched voice evolved primarily to intimidate other men...to make males seem bigger and scarier." He added that: "Human male traits imply physical aggression and formidability and seem to provide competitive advantages in fighting or threatening other men more than they help attract women."

The researchers at Penn State recorded more than 500 men and women speaking. They then played the recordings back to more than 1,100 different people of both sexes. Male volunteers rated each male recording for levels of dominance they perceived in the voices. The same recordings were rated by 15 female volunteers for romantic attractiveness. Men similarly rated the women's voices for attractiveness. Most of the men thought the lower-pitched male recordings belonged to a more dominant man. Dr Puts said women also liked lower-pitched voices, but the pattern of the women's ratings did not lead him to say that the deepness of the male voice was so important to females.

Sources: *NBC News* / *nvh.us* / *upi.com*

Writing

The quality of your voice can change your life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / light / traditionally / the opposite sex / scare / aggression / threatening / researchers / recordings / volunteers / romantic / attractiveness / pattern / important

True / False

- Scientists used light to measure how deep voices are. T / F
- It was thought deep voices in men were to attract women. T / F
- Anthropologists carried out the study into deep voices. T / F
- The article says women are attracted by aggression in men. T / F
- The researchers recorded the voices of more than 1,100 people. T / F
- Men rated female voices for how dominant they seemed. T / F
- A researcher said women liked lower-pitched voices. T / F
- Deep male voices were not found to be so important to women. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. cast | a. assorted |
| 2. thought | b. frighten |
| 3. attract | c. likewise |
| 4. intimidate | d. entice |
| 5. traits | e. cause |
| 6. different | f. thrown |
| 7. rated | g. self-assured |
| 8. similarly | h. characteristics |
| 9. dominant | i. evaluated |
| 10. lead | j. believed |

Discussion – Student A

- Are you more likely to be intimidated by deeper voices?
- In which situations does the pitch of your voice change?
- What impression do you have of women with deep voices?
- Do you like female singers with deep voices or high-pitched voices?
- Is a deep voice more attractive?
- Would you like to change your voice?
- What is your inner voice and what does it tell you?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have cast new | a. intimidate other men |
| 2. scare | b. sexes |
| 3. primarily to | c. advantages |
| 4. make males seem bigger | d. dominant man |
| 5. seem to provide competitive | e. for attractiveness |
| 6. They then played the | f. light on why |
| 7. different people of both | g. volunteers |
| 8. female | h. recordings back |
| 9. Men similarly rated the women's voices | i. and scarier |
| 10. belonged to a more | j. off other males |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of your voice?
- Whose voice do you really like, and why?
- What are the good and bad things about a deep voice?
- Why do some people have deeper voices than others?
- What impression do you have of men with deep voices?
- Do you like male singers with deep voices or high-pitched voices?
- In which jobs is the quality of your voice important?

Spelling

- It was llyniotaidrta thought that
- members of the opiepsot sex
- other epmtrsai too
- primarily to aittneimid other men
- imply physical saeogisrgn
- oceviittepm advantages
- Male esvnloture
- levels of cdnnaeiom
- romantic sciearstatenv
- Men lraiyilsm rated the women's voices
- the lower-phitcde male recordings
- the apnertt of the women's ratings

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – A deep voice

You think a deep voice is the most attractive thing in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): intelligence, muscles or straight teeth.

Role B – Intelligence

You think intelligence is the most attractive thing in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a deep voice, muscles or straight teeth.

Role C – Muscles

You think having muscles is the most attractive thing in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): intelligence, a deep voice or straight teeth.

Role D – Straight teeth

You think having straight teeth is the most attractive thing in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): intelligence, muscles or a deep voice.

Speaking – Attractiveness

Rank these with your partner. Put the most attractive things about people at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • intelligence | • a deep voice |
| • muscles | • long hair |
| • a nice smile | • eye colour |
| • straight teeth | • a sense of humour |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.