

Sex-Based vs Gender-Based Similarities & Differences (Nature vs Nurture + Cultural Influence)

Goal

I can explain sex-based and gender-based similarities and differences and understand how nature and nurture work together.

Success Criteria

- ✓ I can define key vocabulary
 - ✓ I can describe basic sex-based and gender-based differences and similarities
 - ✓ I can explain why nature and nurture cannot be separated
 - ✓ I can give a simple real-life example
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Key Ideas

1. Big Idea

Human behaviour is shaped by both **biology (nature)** and **environment (nurture)**. They always work together, so they cannot be separated.

2. Key Vocabulary

- **Sex:** biological traits (male, female)
- **Gender:** social roles and identity
- **Nature:** biology/genetics
- **Nurture:** environment and culture
- **Socialization:** learning social rules
- **Stereotype:** oversimplified belief

An **oversimplified belief** is a way of thinking about a group of people that is **too simple and not fully accurate**.

It ignores individual differences and assumes everyone in the group is the same.

Example:

- “All girls are emotional” → oversimplified belief
 - “All boys are good at sports” → oversimplified belief
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3. Sex-Based Differences (Biological)

- Hormones (testosterone, estrogen)
- Body differences (muscle mass, reproductive system)

BUT:

Most traits like intelligence and emotions are **similar across sexes**

4. Gender-Based Differences (Social)

- Boys → “tough” or “independent”
- Girls → “caring” or “emotional”

BUT:

Both genders can do the same careers and express emotions

5. Why Nature & Nurture Can't Be Separated

- Biology and environment always interact
 - Culture shapes behaviour (roles change over time)
 - Social expectations affect how traits are shown
 - Humans can't be studied in fully controlled environments
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6. Cultural Change Example

- Past: women = home, men = work
 - Now: equal careers and leadership roles
Shows gender roles change with society
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7. Simple Example

A boy wants to be a nurse:

- Nature: caring personality
 - Nurture: role models + environment
Both influence behaviour together
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8. Quick Summary

- Sex = biology
- Gender = society
- Similarities > differences
- Nature + nurture always work together
- Culture shapes gender roles over time