

## Computer - Male or Female

This was part of a speech of the head of Harrow School recently: A language instructor was explaining to her adult class that in French nouns are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. One student asked the sex of a computer. As the word wasn't in her French dictionary, for fun she split the class into two groups by gender and asked them to decide whether "computer" should be a masculine or feminine noun.

**The men** decided that computers should definitely be of the feminine gender "la computer", because:

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic
- The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval.
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

**The women** however concluded that computers should be masculine, "le computer", because:

- In order to get their attention you have to turn them on.
- They have a lot of data, but they are still clueless.
- They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time they are the problem.
- As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you'd waited a little, you could have got a better model.

And these are the 10d's solutions:

**Boys:** We decided that a computer is MASCULINE, because:

- he can think logically,
- he can't work alone,
- he needs care and love,
- he's often treated badly,
- women don't understand him,
- he gets dusty without daily cleaning,
- there's something inside,
- you can turn him off,
- he has got a body of steel,
- he's got a warm heart,
- you can put many of them in a room and they will not begin to argue,
- he doesn't get fatter if you feed him,
- if you want to play with him he doesn't get a headache.

**Girls:** The computer is masculine because:

- he is not creative
- he can't think (freely)
- he can be manipulated very easily with only one button press
- the younger the better
- men can become addicted to him
- he doesn't show feelings( has no heart)
- you can play with him
- he gets hot very fast and then crashes down
- needs instructions (there to serve)
- you have to spend much money if you want a good one
- if it's older it needs a long time to boot
- only some are good-looking
- most look better from the outside than from the inside
- he thinks mechanically
- he can force him to do something
- you can turn him on and off
- if you spend too much time with him you get bored

If you (the reader) would like to take part in our discussion about the gender of computers, you are welcome to email us your suggestions.

We will publish the best.