

3B Stereotypes – or are they?

1 READING & SPEAKING

a In pairs, answer the questions.

- 1 Are you a talkative or a quiet person?
- 2 Who is...?
 - a the most talkative person in your family
 - b the most talkative person you know
- 3 Do you think that, generally speaking, women are more talkative than men?
- 4 What topics do a) men talk about more than women?
b) women talk about more than men?

b Look at the definition of *stereotype*. Then **A** read the article *Men talk just as much as women* and **B** read the article *A gossip with the girls?* Find answers to questions 1–4.

stereotype /ˈsteriətaɪp/ **noun** a fixed idea about a particular type of person or thing, which is often not true in reality. ► **stereotype** **verb** *In advertisements, women are often stereotyped as housewives.*

- 1 What was the stereotype that the researchers wanted to investigate?
- 2 Where was the research done?
- 3 How was the research done?
- 4 What did the research show?

c In pairs, tell each other about your article, using questions 1–4 to help you.

d Now read both articles again and look at the **highlighted** words and phrases, which are commonly used in articles about research. Match them with definitions 1–10.

- 1 *In fact* _____ *adverb* really
- 2 _____ *verb* make less
- 3 _____ usually do it
- 4 _____ *adverb* a little bit
- 5 _____ linking word used to connect or contrast two facts
- 6 _____ *verb* say that sth is true
- 7 _____ as said or shown by sb
- 8 _____ *verb* include several different things in addition to the ones mentioned
- 9 _____ *adverb* nearly
- 10 _____ not completely believed, doubted

e Which of the two pieces of research do you think is...?

- 1 more credible
- 2 more important
- 3 more surprising

Men talk just as much as women – can it really be true?

Research by psychologists at the University of Arizona has shown that the stereotype that women talk more than men may not be true. In the study, hundreds of university students were fitted with recorders and the total number of words they used during the day was then counted.

The results, published in the *New Scientist*, showed that women speak about 16,000 words a day and men speak only **slightly** fewer. **In fact**, the four most talkative people in the study were all men.

Professor Matthias Mehl, who was in charge of the research, said that he and his colleagues had expected to find that women were more talkative.

A GOSSIP WITH THE GIRLS? JUST PICK ANY ONE OF FORTY SUBJECTS

Women are experts at gossiping – and they often talk about trivial things, or at least that's what men have always thought. However **according to** research carried out by Professor Petra Boynton, a psychologist at University College London, when women talk to women their conversations are not trivial at all, and cover many more topics (up to 40) than when men talk to other men.

Women's conversations **range from** health to their houses, from politics to fashion, from films to family, from education to relationship problems. **Almost** everything, in fact, except football. Men **tend to** talk about fewer subjects, the most popular being work, sport, jokes, cars, and women.





However, they had **been sceptical** of the common belief that women use three times as many words as men. This idea became popular after the publication of a book called *The Female Brain* (2006) whose author, Louann Brizendine, **claimed** that 'a woman uses about 20,000 words per day, **whereas** a man uses about 7,000.'

Professor Mehl accepts that many people will find the results difficult to believe. However, he thinks that this research is important because the stereotype, that women talk too much and men keep quiet, is bad not only for women but also for men. 'It says that to be a good male, it's better not to talk – that silence is golden.'

Professor Boynton interviewed over 1,000 women for her study. She also found that women move quickly from one subject to another in conversation, whereas men usually stick to one subject for longer periods of time.

Professor Boynton also says that men and women chat for different reasons. In social situations women use conversation to solve problems and **reduce** stress, while men chat with each other to have a laugh or to swap opinions.



2 GRAMMAR articles: a / an, the, no article

- a Complete 1–4 with *a / an, the*, or – (no article).
- 'Have you heard this joke? ___ man with ___ dog walks into ___ bar. ___ man says to ___ barman, "Can I have ___ beer and ___ whisky for my dog...?"'
 - 'I've just read ___ article on ___ internet about how eating ___ strawberries makes you look younger...'
 - 'I'm sure there's something wrong between us because we never go out to ___ dinner or to ___ cinema any more.'
 - 'Did you watch ___ match ___ last night? I can't believe that ___ referee didn't see that it was ___ penalty...'
- b According to the article *A gossip with the girls?*, who do you think would probably say 1–4, a man or a woman?
- c ➤ p.137 Grammar Bank 3B. Learn more about articles and practise them.

3 PRONUNCIATION

/ə/, sentence stress, /ðə/ or /ði:/?

- a 2 20))) Listen and repeat the sound and words.



a about anniversary cinema problem
relationship spider usually woman

- b 2 21))) Listen and repeat the sentences. Then practise saying them with the /ə/ sound.
- What **are** we **going to have** for lunch **today**?
 - I'd **like to see** a good film **tonight**.
 - We **need to go** in the **other direction**.
 - Could you **ask** the **woman over** there?
 - There's a **cinema** and there **are** lots of shops.
- c 2 22))) Listen and underline five phrases where *the* is pronounced /ði:/ (not /ðə/). Why does the pronunciation change?

the cinema the end the other day the world the sun
the internet the kitchen the answer the Earth

4 SPEAKING

Prove that the research in *A gossip with the girls?* is wrong! Work in pairs or small groups.

If you're a **woman**, try to talk for two minutes about:

football cars computers

If you're a **man**, try to talk for two minutes about:

fashion shopping your family

5 READING & LISTENING

- a Do you think it is a stereotype that women are better than men at looking after small children? Do you know any men who stay at home and look after their children? How do they manage?
- b Look at an illustration from a new book about looking after young children. Can you name some of the things in the picture?



- c Read the beginning of an article about the book. Why did Neil Sinclair write it? In what way is it different from other books about bringing up children?

For six years Neil Sinclair served as a commando with the British army. He had been in lots of dangerous situations, but nothing prepared him for the day when he brought his first baby home from hospital. 'I put the car seat containing my two-day-old son Samuel down on the floor and said to my wife, 'What do we do now?'

When he left the army, Sinclair and his wife agreed that he would stay at home and look after the baby, while his wife went back to work.

'I have done a lot of crazy things, but when I put that baby down I thought: I have a tiny baby and he is crying. What does he want? What does he need? I did not know. It was one of the most difficult days of my life.'

It was at that moment that Sinclair had an idea. 'I found myself thinking how much easier life would be if I had a basic training manual for my baby, like the manual you get when you join the army. I realized

- d 23 Listen to two men talking in the park about the book and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).



- 1 Miranda is older than Stephen.
 - 2 Miranda's father slept badly the night before.
 - 3 Stephen's father recommends sleeping tablets.
 - 4 Stephen's father hasn't read *Commando Dad*.
 - 5 He likes the website because he enjoys reading about other men's experiences.
 - 6 Stephen's father really likes the book because it helps him and makes him laugh.
 - 7 In *Commando Dad*, BT means 'Baby Trooper' and 'Base Camp' means the kitchen.
 - 8 The author of *Commando Dad* thinks that women are only better than men when the baby is small.
- e Listen again and correct the wrong information.
- f Do you think it's a good idea to have a book and a website on childcare especially for men? Why (not)?

COMMANDO DAD

that somebody needed to write such a manual, and who better to write it than me? I had been a commando, but I was now a stay-at-home dad. I was the man for the job.'

His book, *Commando Dad: Basic Training*, is a set of instructions that explains with military precision and diagrams how new fathers should approach the first three years of their child's life to become a 'first-rate father'.

Adapted from The Times

Glossary

commando *noun* one of a group of soldiers who are trained to make quick attacks in enemy areas

stay-at-home dad *noun* a man who stays at home and looks after the children while his wife goes out to work

6 SPEAKING

- a 2 24))) Listen to someone talking about men and women, and complete the gaps.

'Generally _____, I think women worry more about their appearance than men. They _____ to spend hours choosing what to wear, doing their hair, and putting on make-up. Women are also _____ better at making themselves look more attractive. But I think that in _____, men are more worried than women about their body image. They feel more insecure about their hair, for instance, especially when they're going bald.'

- b In small groups discuss if the statements opposite about men and women are stereotypes or true. Try to use the **highlighted** expressions for generalizing from a.

MEN & WOMEN stereotypes or true?

- Women worry more about their appearance than men.
- Women spend more time than men on social networking sites.
- Men talk more about things; women talk more about people.
- Men are more interested than women in gadgets like phones and tablets.
- Women are better at multitasking than men.
- Men find it more difficult than women to talk to their friends or family if they have a problem.
- Women spend more time than men talking about celebrities and their lifestyles.
- Men are more interested than women in power.
- Women are less interested in sport than men.
- Men worry more about their health than women.

7 VOCABULARY

collocation: verbs / adjectives + prepositions

- a Cover the statements above. Can you remember the missing prepositions?
- 1 Men worry more ___ their health than women.
 - 2 Women are better ___ multitasking than men.
 - 3 Men are more interested than women ___ power.
- b ► p.156 Vocabulary Bank *Dependent prepositions.*

🔍 When are prepositions stressed?

Prepositions are normally only stressed when they are the last word, e.g. in a question. Compare:

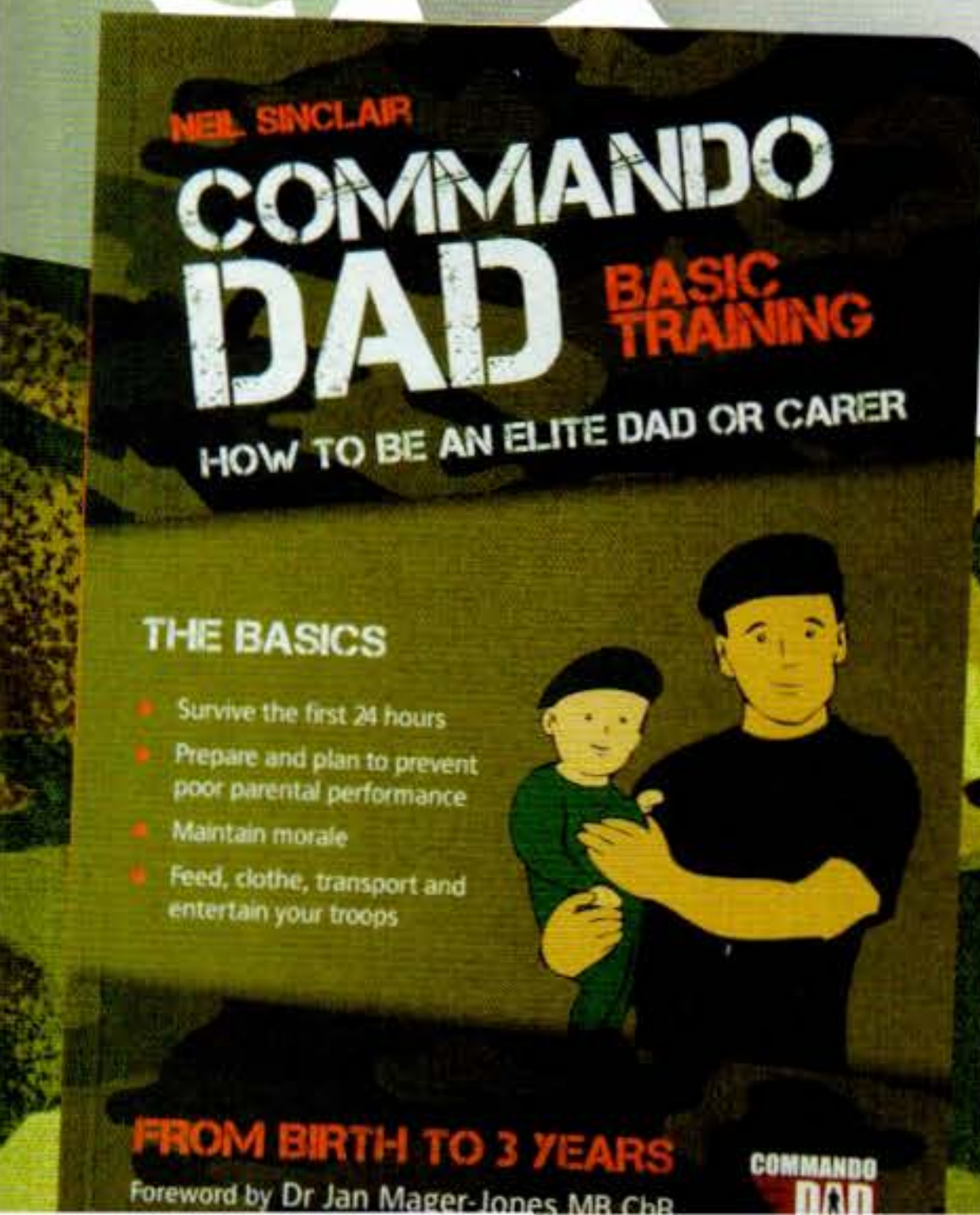
We **need** to **talk** about our **holiday**.

What are you **talking** about?

Freddie is **afraid** of **flying**.

What are you **afraid** of?

- c Complete the questions with a preposition.
- 1 When you're with friends of the same sex, what do you usually talk ___?
 - 2 Are there any sports or games that you're good ___?
 - 3 Is there anything you're really looking forward ___?
 - 4 Who in your family are you closest ___?
 - 5 What kind of films are you keen ___?
 - 6 Are there any animals or insects that you're afraid ___?
 - 7 What's your town famous ___?
 - 8 Are there any superstitions that you believe ___?
- d 2 27))) Listen and check. Then ask and answer the questions with a partner.



articles: *a / an, the, no article**a / an*

- 1 I saw **an old man** with **a dog**. (2 17)))
- 2 It's **a nice house**. She's **a lawyer**.
- 3 What **an awful day**!
- 4 I have classes three times **a week**.

- We use *a / an* with singular countable nouns:
 - 1 the first time you mention a thing / person.
 - 2 when you say what something is or what somebody does.
 - 3 in exclamations with *What...!*
 - 4 in expressions of frequency.

the

- 1 I saw an old man with **a dog**. **The dog** was barking. (2 18)))
- 2 My father opened **the door**. **The children** are at school.
- 3 **The moon** goes round **the Earth**.
- 4 I'm going to **the cinema** tonight.
- 5 It's **the best** restaurant in town.

a Circle the correct answers.

I love weddings / *the weddings*!

- 1 Jess is *nurse* / *a nurse* in a hospital. *A hospital* / *The hospital* is a long way from her house.
- 2 What *a horrible day* / *horrible day*! We'll have to eat our picnic in *the car* / *a car*.
- 3 My wife likes *love stories* / *the love stories*, but I prefer *the war films* / *war films*.
- 4 We go to *theatre* / *the theatre* about *once a month* / *once the month*.
- 5 I'm having *dinner* / *the dinner* with some friends *the next Friday* / *next Friday*.
- 6 My boyfriend is *chef* / *a chef*. I think he's *the best cook* / *best cook* in the world.
- 7 I'm not sure if I closed *the windows* / *windows* before I left *the home* / *home* this morning.
- 8 In general, I like *dogs* / *the dogs*, but I don't like *dogs* / *the dogs* that live next door to me.
- 9 I got to *the school* / *school* late every day *the last week* / *last week*.
- 10 I think *happiness* / *the happiness* is more important than *success* / *the success*.

- We use *the*:
 - 1 when we talk about something we've already mentioned.
 - 2 when it's clear what you're referring to.
 - 3 when there's only one of something.
 - 4 with places in a town, e.g. *cinema* and *theatre*.
 - 5 with superlatives.

no article

- 1 **Women** usually talk more than **men**. **Love** is more important than **money**. (2 19)))
- 2 She's not **at home** today. I get back **from work** at 5.30.
- 3 I never have **breakfast**.
- 4 See you **next Friday**.

- We don't use an article:
 - 1 when we are speaking in general (with plural and uncountable nouns). Compare:
 - I love flowers.* (= flowers in general)
 - I love the flowers in my garden.* (= the specific flowers in my garden)
 - 2 with some nouns, (e.g. *home, work, school, church*) after *at / to / from*.
 - 3 before meals, days, and months.
 - 4 before *next / last* + day, week, etc.

b Complete with *a / an, the, or -* (= no article).

- A We're lost. Let's stop and buy *a* map.
 B No need. I'll put *the* address in *the* satnav.
- 1 A How often do you go to _____ gym?
 B About three times _____ week. But I never go on _____ Fridays.
 - 2 A What time does _____ train leave?
 B In ten minutes. Can you give me _____ lift to _____ station?
 - 3 A What _____ lovely dress!
 B Thanks. I bought it in _____ sales _____ last month.
 - 4 A What's _____ most interesting place to visit in your town?
 B Probably _____ castle. It's _____ oldest building in town.
 - 5 A What shall we do _____ next weekend?
 B Let's invite some friends for _____ lunch. We could eat outside in _____ garden.
 - 6 A Do you like _____ dogs?
 B Not really. I prefer _____ cats. I think they're _____ best pets.
 - 7 A Is your mum _____ housewife?
 B No, she's _____ teacher. She's always tired when she finishes _____ work.
 - 8 A Have you ever had _____ problem in your relationship?
 B Yes, but we got over _____ problem and we got married _____ last year.
 - 9 A When is _____ meeting?
 B They've changed _____ date. It's _____ next Tuesday now.



outside came and listened to them and cared about them. But it's not only the children whose lives have changed. Adelante África has also changed me and my family. We have been very lucky in life. I feel that life has given me a lot. Now I want to give something back. But it's not all giving. I feel that I get more from them than I give! I love being there. I love their smiles and how they have such a strong sense of community, and I love feeling that my family and the other members of Adelante África are accepted as part of that community.

Interviewer And do you have a website?

Jane Yes, we do. It's www.adelanteafrica.com. We've had the website for about four years. It was one of the first things we set up. If you'd like to find out more about Adelante África, please go there and have a look. There are lots of photos and even a video my son took of me teaching the children to sing on that first day. Maybe it will change your life too, who knows?

1 52)))

Phone call 4

I haven't had any music for the last three days, because my iPod broke, so paddling has been getting more boring. To pass the time I count or I name countries in my head and sometimes I just look up at the sky. Sometimes the sky is pink with clouds that look like cotton wool, other times it's dark like the smoke from a fire and sometimes it's bright blue. The day that I reached the half way point in my trip the sky was bright blue. I'm superstitious so I didn't celebrate – there's still a very long way to go.

Phone call 5

This week the mosquitoes have been driving me mad. They obviously think I'm easy food! They especially like my feet. I wake up in the night when they bite me and I can't stop scratching my feet.

But I'm feeling happier now than I've been feeling for weeks. I've seen a lot of amazing wildlife this week. One day I found myself in the middle of a group of dolphins. There were about six pairs jumping out of the water. I've also seen enormous butterflies, iguanas, and vultures which fly above me in big groups. Yesterday a fish jumped into my kayak. Maybe it means I'm going to be lucky. I am starting to feel a bit sad that this adventure is coming to an end.

And finally on the news, BBC presenter Helen Skelton has successfully completed her 3,200 kilometre journey down the Amazon River in a kayak. She set off from Nauta in Peru six weeks ago on a journey which many people said would be impossible. But yesterday she crossed the finish line at Almeirim in Brazil to become the first woman to paddle down the Amazon. Here's Helen: 'It's been hard but I've had an amazing time. The only thing I've really missed is my dog Barney. So the first thing I'm going to do will be to pick him up and take him for a nice long walk.'

2 9)))

The Stig was using public transport, for the first time in his life! He saw a big red thing coming towards him. A bus! He got on it, and used his Oyster Card to pay. Ten minutes later he got off and got the tube at Acton Town to take the District line to Monument. 18 stops!

The train now approaching is a District line train to West Ham. Please mind the gap between the train and the platform.

The Stig noticed that everyone was reading a newspaper, so he picked up a free one that was on a seat and started reading.

The next station is Monument. Change here for the Central line and the Docklands Light Railway.

He got off the tube and ran to the platform for the Docklands Light Railway. After a few minutes a train arrived. Now it was just ten stops and he would be there!

2 15)))

Host And on tonight's programme we talk to Tom Dixon, who is an expert on road safety. Tom, new technology like satnav has meant new distractions for drivers, hasn't it?

Tom That's right, Nicky, but it isn't just technology that's the problem. Car drivers do a lot of other things while they're driving which are dangerous and which can cause accidents. Remember, driver distraction is the number one cause of road accidents.

Host Now I know you've been doing a lot of tests with simulators. According to your tests, what's the most dangerous thing to do when you're driving?

Tom The tests we did in a simulator showed that the most dangerous thing to do while you're driving is to send or receive a text message. This is incredibly dangerous and it is of course illegal. In fact, research done by the police shows that this is more dangerous than drinking and driving.

Host Why is that?

Tom Well, the reason is obvious – many people use two hands to text, one to hold the phone and the other to type. Which means that they don't have their hands on the wheel, and they are looking at the phone, not at the road. Even for people who can text with one hand, it is still extremely dangerous. In the tests we did in the simulator two of the drivers crashed while texting.

Host And which is the next most dangerous?

Tom The next most dangerous thing is to set or adjust your sat nav. This is extremely hazardous too because although you can do it with one hand, you still have to take your eyes off the road for a few seconds.

Host And number three?

Tom Number three was putting on make-up or doing your hair. In fact this is something that people often do, especially women of course, when they stop at traffic lights, but if they haven't finished when the lights change, they often carry on when they start driving again. It's that fatal combination of just having one hand on the steering wheel, and looking in the mirror, not at the road.

Host And number four?

Tom In fourth place, there are two activities which are equally dangerous. One of them is making a phone call on a mobile. Our research showed that when people talk on the phone they drive more slowly (which can be just as dangerous as driving fast) but their control of the car gets worse, because they're concentrating on the phone call and not on what's happening on the road. But the other thing, which is just as dangerous as talking on your mobile, is eating and drinking. In fact if you do this, you double your chance of having an accident because eating and drinking always involves taking at least one hand off the steering wheel. And the worrying thing here is that people don't think of this as a dangerous activity at all and it isn't even illegal.

Host And in fifth, well actually sixth place. It must be listening to music, but which one?

Tom Well, it's listening to music you know.

Host Oh, that's interesting.

Tom We found in our tests that when drivers were listening to music they knew and liked, they drove either faster or slower depending on whether the music was fast or slow.

Host So fast music made drivers drive faster.

Tom Exactly. And a study in Canada also found that if the music was very loud then drivers' reaction time was 20% slower. If you're listening to very loud music you're twice as likely to go through a red light.

Host So the safest of all of the things in the list is to listen to music we don't know.

Tom Exactly. If we don't know the music then it doesn't distract us. In this part of the tests all drivers drove safely.

2 23)))

A Excuse me, is this seat free?

B Yes, sure sit down. Ah, he's lovely. Is he yours?

A Yes, yes. He's a she actually. Miranda.

B Oh. Three months?

A Three and a half. How about yours?

B Stephen. He's four months. Did you have a bad night?

A Yes, Miranda was crying all night. You know, that noise gets to you. It drives me mad.

B Do you know what you need? These.

A What are they? Earplugs?

B Yes. Earplugs! When the baby starts crying you just put these in. You can still hear the crying, but the noise isn't so bad and it's not so stressful.

A That's a great idea! Who told you to do that?

B It's all in this book I've read. You should get it.

A Yeah? What's it called?

B It's called 'Commando Dad'. It was written by an ex-soldier. He was a commando in the army and it's especially for men with babies or small children. It's brilliant.

A Really? So what's so good about it?

B Well, it's like a military manual. It tells you exactly what to do with a baby in any situation. It makes everything easier. There's a website too that you can go to – commandodad.com. It has lots of advice about looking after babies and small kids and I really like the forums where men can write in with their problems, or their experiences.

A What sort of things does it help you with?

B All sorts of things. How to change nappies – he has a really good system, how to dress the baby, how to get the baby to sleep, the best way to feed the baby, how to know if the baby is ill. It's really useful and it's quite funny too, I mean he uses sort of military language, so for example he calls the baby a BT which means a baby trooper, and the baby's bedroom is base camp, and taking the baby for a walk is manoeuvres, and taking the nappies to the rubbish is called bomb disposal.

A What else does it say?

A And what does he think about men looking after children? Does he think we do it well?

B He thinks that men are just as good as women at looking after children in almost everything.

A Almost everything?

B Yeah, he says the one time when women are better than men is when the kids are ill. Women sort of understand better what to do. They have an instinct. Oh. Now it's my turn. Right, I know exactly what that cry means. It means he's hungry.

A Wow! What was that book called?

2 28)))

Kerri You work hard but your money's all spent
Haven't got enough to pay the rent
You know it's not right and it makes no sense
To go chasing, chasing those dollars and cents
Chasing, chasing those dollars and cents...

Rob That was great, Kerri.

Kerri Thanks.

Rob Kerri, you used to be in a band, now you play solo. Why did you change?

Kerri What happened with the band is private. I've already said I don't want to talk about it in interviews. All I'll say is that I have a lot more freedom this way. I can play – and say – what I want.

Rob Did your relationship with the band's lead guitarist affect the break up?

Kerri No comment. I never talk about my private life.

Rob Your Dad was in a famous punk band and your Mum's a classical pianist, have they influenced your music?

Kerri Of course they have – what do you think? Isn't everyone influenced by their parents?

Rob When did you start playing?

Kerri I started playing the guitar when I was about four.