



Demystifying prejudice against homosexuality

True or False Quiz

1. Homosexuality is an illness.
2. Homosexuals are all pedophiles.
3. Homosexuality is contagious.
4. Talking about homosexuality increases the chances of becoming gay or lesbian.
5. Homosexual individuals think only about sex.
6. Children with gay or lesbian parents become homosexuals.
7. Making a gay or lesbian friend can be dangerous for me.
8. There are no gays and lesbians in my school.
9. Sexual orientation is a choice.
10. Gays and lesbians represent 10% of the population.
11. In a gay or lesbian couple, one of the partners plays the feminine or masculine role.
12. I can identify a gay or lesbian at first sight.
13. Two men or two women can adopt a child.
14. Children raised by same-sex parents have developmental problems.
15. A child raised by two men or two women has a greater chance of becoming gay than a child raised by heterosexual parents.

12. I can identify a gay or lesbian at first sight. **False.**

Some boys are weaker than others and some girls are stronger than others, but these differences have nothing to do with sexual orientation.

There are all kinds of homosexuals and lesbians:

- strong men and women
- weak men and women
- athletic or intellectual men and women

If you think you can identify them, you're probably mistaken.

13. Two men or two women can adopt a child. **True.**

The civil union law, which has been in effect since June 2002, allows same-sex couples to adopt children.

14. Children raised by same-sex parents have developmental problems. **False.**

In February 2002, the American Academy of Pediatrics unequivocally stated that children raised by same-sex parents develop equally well in all areas as those raised by heterosexual parents. The academy also concluded that it is in the child's best interest to officially acknowledge both his or her parents. The American Psychiatric Association has expressed the same opinion. These two associations have cleared up any ambiguities about the supposed "dangers" and inadequacies of same-sex parents. Both reports demonstrate that the main harm that children suffer is caused by ignorance and prejudices toward same-sex parents.

15. A child raised by two men or two women has a greater chance of becoming gay than a child raised by heterosexual parents. **False.**

Studies clearly prove that there are no more gay or lesbian children among homosexual couples than there are among heterosexual couples.

1. Homosexuality is an illness. **False.**

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association issued an advisory stating that homosexuality should no longer be considered a mental disorder. Consequently, homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM), which is the diagnostic reference for all North American health and social service professionals.

In 1992, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an advisory stating that it is erroneous to associate homosexuality with mental illness.

In 1999, the American Psychological Association's code of ethics recognized that it is unethical to consider homosexuality a psychological disorder, a sexual deviancy, or a kind of psychopathology.

2. Homosexuals are all pedophiles. **False.**

Pedophiles are mostly married heterosexual men who may be attracted to either young girls or boys. One cannot say that all heterosexuals are pedophiles; similarly, one cannot say that all homosexuals are pedophiles.

3. Homosexuality is contagious. **False.**

Homosexuality, like heterosexuality, cannot be transmitted from one person to another.

4. Talking about homosexuality increases the chances of becoming gay or lesbian. **False.**

Talking about homosexuality allows us to debunk the myths, to better understand homosexuality, and to learn to respect differences.

5. Homosexual individuals think only about sex. **False.**

They do not think about sex more than heterosexual individuals.

6. Children with gay or lesbian parents become homosexuals. **False.**

There are no more gay or lesbian children of homosexual couples than of heterosexual couples. All the scientific evidence reaches the same conclusion: children raised by same-sex parents are no different than children raised by heterosexual parents.

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sex parents. Both reports demonstrate that the main harm children suffer is caused by ignorance and prejudices toward same-sex parents.

7. Making a gay or lesbian friend can be dangerous for me. **False.**

Heterosexual boys are usually respectful of girls, and heterosexual girls are respectful of boys. The same is equally true of homosexual boys, who are generally respectful of other boys, and of lesbian girls, who are usually respectful of other girls.

8. There are no gays and lesbians in my school. **False.**

Gays and lesbians represent 10% of the population. Therefore, one person in ten in your school is gay or lesbian. You do the math.

9. Sexual orientation is a choice. **False.**

We often try to understand sexual orientation, and sometimes, we try to blame it on something or someone. The scientific community has investigated the following question: Is homosexuality innate or is it learned? In other words, are you born with your sexual orientation, or do you become gay or lesbian as a result of your experiences, education or influences? Numerous studies have examined this issue. Many theories have been put forward, but there is no consensus. Theories aside, there is unanimous consensus about two facts: you do not choose your sexual orientation, and you cannot change it.

You *discover* your own sexual orientation. Discovering your sexual orientation is an important moment in your life. Sexual orientation is not a revelation; you gradually become aware of it.

Sexual orientation is not a choice, it's a fact. There are many things that you cannot choose, like the colour of your eyes or skin, or your sexual orientation.

10. Gays and lesbians represent 10% of the population. **True.**

Selon toutes les recherches, les gais représenteraient environ 10 % de la population tandis que les lesbiennes environ 8 %.

11. In a gay or lesbian couple, one of the partners plays the feminine or masculine role. **False.**

The model of the traditional couple is everywhere. In a gay or lesbian couple, each of the partners is himself or herself, without playing masculine or feminine roles.