

Name _____

Date _____

“Gender Roles” (definition): _____

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	Modern-Day	
	<u>Role of Females</u>	<u>Roles of Males</u>

In School

In the Workplace

**At Home (housework)
(chores)**

**Family Decision-
Making**

Childcare

In the Color Purple

Role of Females

Roles of Males

In School

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TALCOTT'S GENDER ROLES (from Wikipedia)

- Working in the [United States](#), [Talcott Parsons](#)^[1] developed a model of the [nuclear family](#) in 1955. (At that place and time, the nuclear family was the prevalent family structure.) It compared a strictly traditional view of gender roles (from an industrial-age American perspective) to a more liberal view.
- Parsons believed that the feminine role was an *expressive* one, whereas the masculine role, in his view, was *instrumental*. He believed that expressive activities of the woman fulfill 'internal' functions, for example to strengthen the ties between members of the family. The man, on the other hand, performed the 'external' functions of a family, such as providing monetary support.
- **The Parsons model** was used to contrast and illustrate extreme positions on gender roles. Model A describes total separation of male and female roles, while Model B describes the complete dissolution of barriers between gender roles.^[2] (The examples are based on the context of the culture and [infrastructure](#) of the United States.)

	Model A - Total role segregation	Model B - Total disintegration of roles
Education	Gender-specific education; high professional qualification is important only for the man	Co-educative schools, same content of classes for girls and boys, same qualification for men and women.
Profession	The workplace is not the primary area of women; career and professional advancement is deemed unimportant for women	For women, career is just as important as for men; Therefore equal professional opportunities for men and women are necessary.
Housework	Housekeeping and child care are the primary functions of the woman; participation of the man in these functions is only partially wanted.	All housework is done by both parties to the marriage in equal shares.
Decision making	In case of conflict, man has the last say, for example in choosing the place to live, choice of school for children, buying decisions	Neither partner dominates; solutions do not always follow the principle of finding a concerted decision; status quo is maintained if disagreement occurs.
Child care and education	Woman takes care of the largest part of these functions; she educates children and cares for them in every way	Man and woman share these functions equally.

- However, these extreme positions are rarely found in reality; actual behavior of individuals is usually somewhere between these poles. The most common 'model' followed in real life in the United States and [Britain](#) is the 'model of double burden' (See [Gender roles and feminism](#) below).^[citation needed]

- According to the interactionist approach, roles (including gender roles) are not fixed, but are constantly negotiated between individuals. In North America and southern South America, this is the most common approach among families whose business is [agriculture](#).
- Gender roles can influence all kinds of behavior, such as choice of clothing, choice of work and personal relationships; E.g., parental status (See also [Sociology of fatherhood](#)).