

• his say

SEX TALK

“What are guys talking about?”, “What did he mean by that?” Two age-old questions whose answers haven’t been revealed – till now. STEVE WILLIAMS helps you translate what men say into what they actually mean.

There are some obvious differences between the male and female members of the Homo sapiens species. If you don’t know the really glaring ones you’re beyond help, but I suggest you look down next time you’re in the shower.

Since man first descended from the trees or ripped off that fig leaf, depending on how you stand on the creation versus evolution arrangement, there have been communication problems between men and women. Proof? You only have to watch any “rom-com” movie or TV show to witness the “he said/she said” type of behaviour. Just look for Kate Hudson. Not overly scientific documentation. If that’s more your thing, check out the several million self-help books devoted to the subject.

We’re exposed to the breakdown of male/female communication every day. In relationships, at work, friends, family, it’s everywhere and it’s getting worse. An example – guyspeak or what I call “manguage” – obviously as in “man” but also how it mangles the language. You know what I mean – a guy says one thing to a girl, but actually means another. It’s a very hard skill to master, that takes years of exhaustive training. This art is actually handed down from male generation to generation – much like the art of leaving the toilet seat up.

Up till now, women have absolutely no knowledge of this, and I’ll be in



“I think the other one you tried on was more flattering.”

POSSIBLE MEANING:
“Would you just buy something for @#\$\$% sake!! I’ve spent so much time loitering near the women’s fitting rooms, the staff are about to call the police.”

untold mortal danger for revealing this to you, but there are ancient meeting places, mysterious covens where for eons, men have congregated under the strictest veil of secrecy, to discuss, learn and practise even more insidious ways to bamboozle women with manguage. They’re called pubs.

The very nature of manguage is

that it usually only works between men and women. Here are some examples, some covering relationships and dating, some you probably hear in general conversation – in the car, in bed, at a restaurant, on holidays, you name it. I suggest you memorise them. You never know when these deciphered meanings will be useful.

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“I think I might have strained my ligament at the gym this afternoon.”

(USUALLY SAID IN BED, AFTER SHE’S MADE SOME AMOROUS ADVANCES.)
“There’s a live EPL match about to start on TV, but maybe we can have a quickie at halftime.”

“Why don’t you buy that new LV handbag? You deserve it.”

THIS APPROVAL IS HIS WAY OF SAYING: “Nikon has a new digital SLR.”

“If you want.”

WHAT A GUY IS REALLY THINKING, BUT NOT SAYING:
“I don’t want to, in fact I’d probably rather pull my head off than go to that boring work event/awful social activity/family occasion/Kate Hudson movie/classes to learn to make ancient Aztec socks.” Here, the guy doesn’t want to be accused of bluntly saying “no”. You can even go further – what he’s really thinking is: “I’m slightly apprehensive

“No, you choose...”

TRANSLATION:

“I’m okay with whatever restaurant/bar/movie/club/proctologist you want to go to. I have my own choice and it’s obviously not yours, but I couldn’t be bothered to argue.” Or “I’m happy to let you win this one, because I want you to be in a good mood when I tell you later about that golfing trip I’m going on with my friends.”

of your possible negative reaction and enduring potential physical harm if I don’t go.”

“It’s not here.”

WHAT A GUY MEANS BY THIS:
“I’ve been staring at the open refrigerator/pantry/wardrobe/supermarket shelf/box of stuff for 1.2 seconds and whatever microscopic, atom-sized thing you asked me to find hasn’t jumped out into my pathetically outstretched hand without me having to make the slightest attempt to find it.” I use this several times a day.

“I had a nice time tonight.” (After a date.)

THE TRUTH HURTS, SO LET ME SOFTEN THE BLOW BY SAYING:
“You need your own PR agency to fix that attitude of yours, but you’re hot so I’ll put up with you for the time being.”

“Is there anything else on?”

YOUR MAN IS LONGING TO SAY:
“I’d rather pull my wisdom teeth out than watch the latest hysterical ‘comedy’ on Channel 5/*Gossip Girl*/*Grey’s Anatomy*.” Or “Pleaaaaasse hand me the remote.” HW