

Interests of boys and girls and how teachers react to gender differences

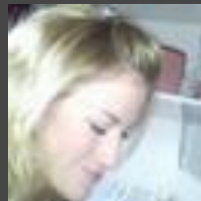
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Theory from literature

Gender stats in Germany

- 93,3% of the personal at the Kindergarten and the care centre are female.
- 15% of the elementary school teachers in Germany are male.
- In Bavaria there are 79% of the school-administration men.
- In the year 2004 there have been 49 % female students of all students at university in Germany. The women who are professors rised in the year 2004 to 14% and have almost doubled compared to the year 1994 (8%).
- 8,7% of the German boys have no secondary modern school education and consequently no graduation. 19,2 % of the boys of foreign countries have no graduation. 5,3 % of the German girls have no graduation.



Theory from literature

- ❑ The affiliation to a sex shapes our identity and our behaviour. Maleness is associated in our society by external effect and characteristics of personality such as strength or competition consciousness. Femaleness corresponds rather with an interior orientation. Pupils require both experience spheres.
- ❑ A view at the two child studies " World vision Kinderstudie" (Hurrelmann/Andresen 2007) and " LBS Kinderbarometer" (Prosoz 2007) shows some interesting gender-specific differences in the self-images of girls and boys. Holger Morawietz formulates four theses on the basis of these assumptions:
 - ❑ Boys suffer more violence and are more violent than girls.
 - ❑ Boys have more material and girls more social values and fears.
 - ❑ In the spare time are boys more often media consumers and girls have much more often versatile interests.
 - ❑ Boys judge their school successes and their well-being much more negatively.



Theory from literature

- The achievements of girls are better evaluated by the teachers than of boys.

One cause could be the fact that girls are more promoted or that they render specific "female" achievements, which are more estimated from female teachers. The demand for more male teachers may be the easiest solution, but maybe not the best. A possible solution seems to be, not to attach great importance to gender and to develop a neutrality towards gender and sex.

- Some results from the research:

- ▣ There are no connections between the achievements of children and the sex of the teachers. Pupils do not measure out a meaning to the sex of instructors.

- ▣ They also hardly believe that the sex of the teachers influence the way they are treated. Asked female teachers want more men in the primary school; but their conceptions of male role models are however contradictory.

- ▣ Male teachers have to deal with hardly solvable role conflicts.



Survey - general facts

Where did we do the surveys?

Primary Schools in:

Feucht (3rd grade)

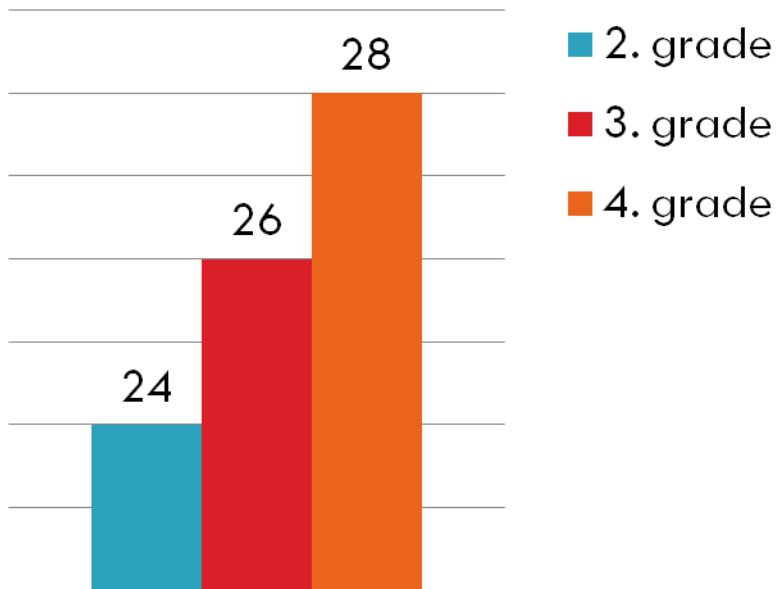
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Neuried (2nd, 4th grade)



Survey - general facts

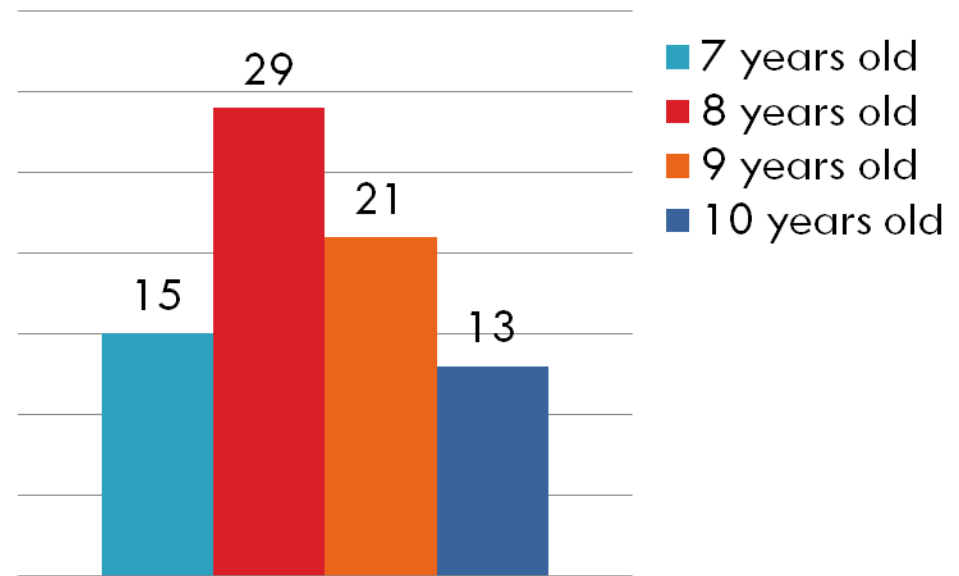
Students and Grade



number of students

Girls: 45 Boys: 33

Students and Age



15 female teachers



Students



Hypotheses

1. Boys like technical presents (like building blocks or lego), girls like dolls.
2. Boys choose more technical or manual professions than girls.
3. Sports with balls are much more popular by boys than girls.
4. Girls evaluate the boys more worse, boys evaluate the girls more worse.
5. Boys want to have a male teacher, girls want to have a female teacher.
6. The favourite school subject of boys is maths or sports, the favourite subject of girls is music or arts.
7. Boys like maths much more than girls.
8. Boys like sports much more than girls.
9. Girls prefer school subjects like arts, music or to study languages.
10. Girls like reading much more than boys.



Questionnaire for boys and girls

Dear pupils,

we want to know what you experience in your school. So please answer the following questions step by step. By a few questions we want to know from you, what does you like or not. Therefore we have some pictures which you have to mark with a cross. The sun means that you like it very much, the flash means that you like something not at all.

Thank you! ☺

A About you

1. How old are you?
2. Which class do you attend?
3. Are you a boy or a girl?



Questionnaire for boys and girls

B Questions about what girls and boys like

1. Imagine you have birthday. What kind of present would you wish?

.....





2. What kind of profession do you want to have later?

.....





3. What are your hobbies?





.....

4. Do you think that boys and girls are treated equally in your class?

5. What do you think about the girls and boys in your class?





	boys			
The boys are:				
friendly				
helpful				
funny				
clever				
tidy				
nasty				
rudely				

	girls			
The girls are:				
friendly				
helpful				
funny				
clever				
tidy				
nasty				
rudely				



Questionnaire for boys and girls

6. Is your teacher a woman or a man?
7. What you better like as your teacher? a woman a man
8. What is your favourite subject? Decide for ONE!
9. What do you think about the different subjects?

School subjects				
Mathematic				
English				
Social studys				
Geographic				
Sports				
Art and design				
History				
Music				
Modern foreign languages				

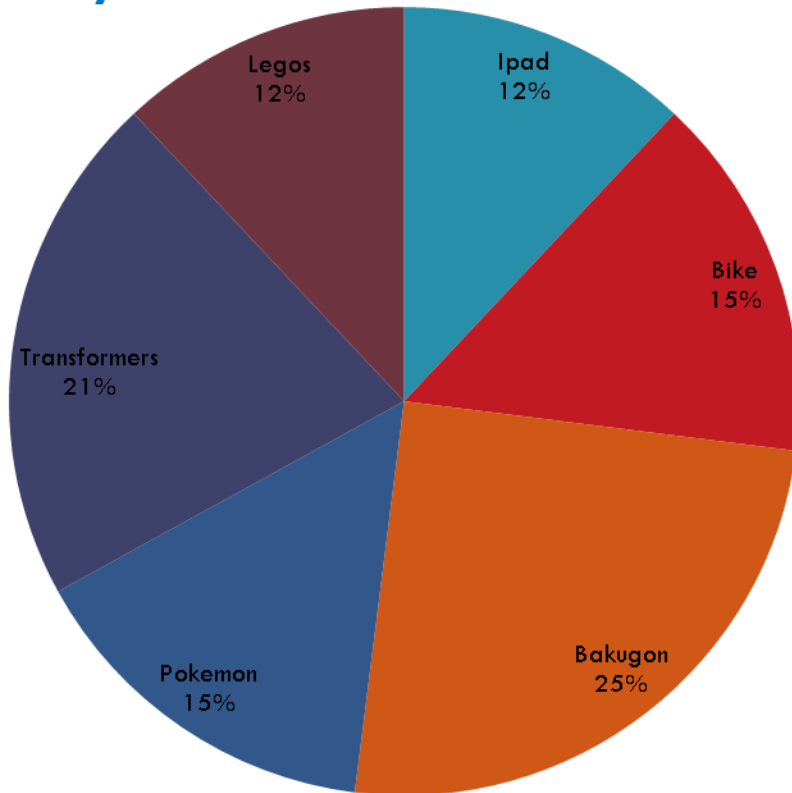
10. How often do you read at home a book or a magazine?
 every day several times a week seldom never



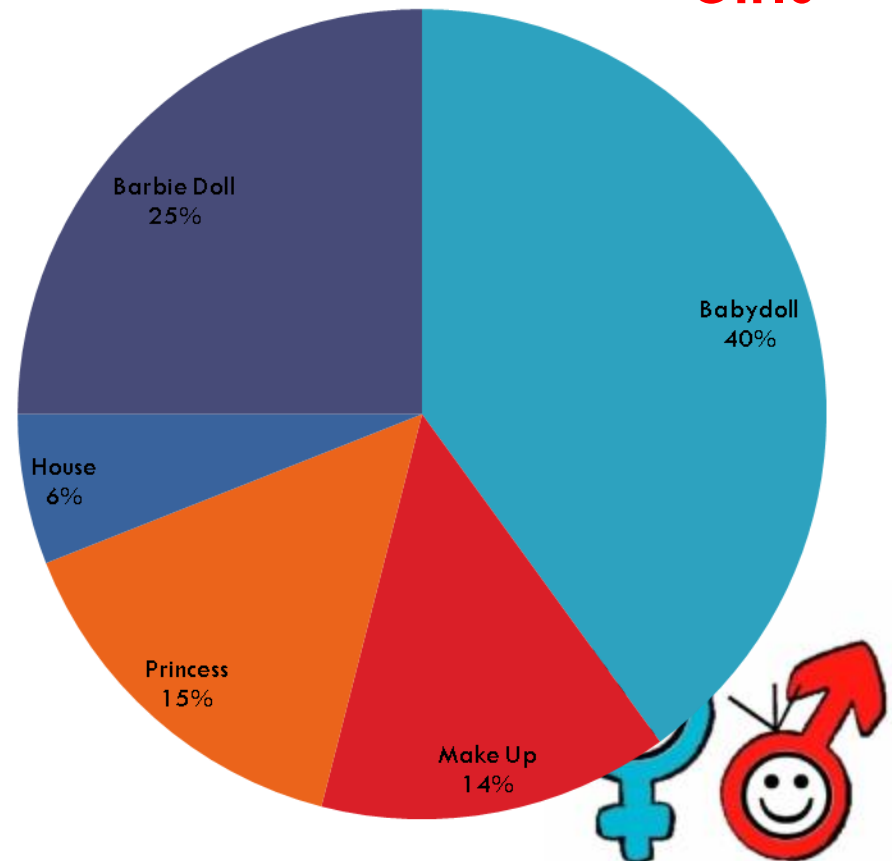
Results in USA – students

1) Imagine you have birthday. What kind of present would you wish?

Boys



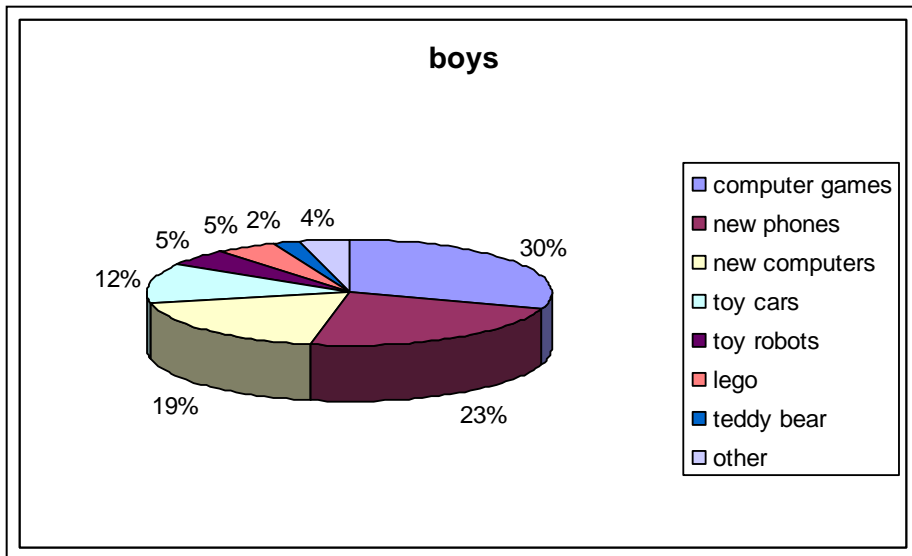
Girls



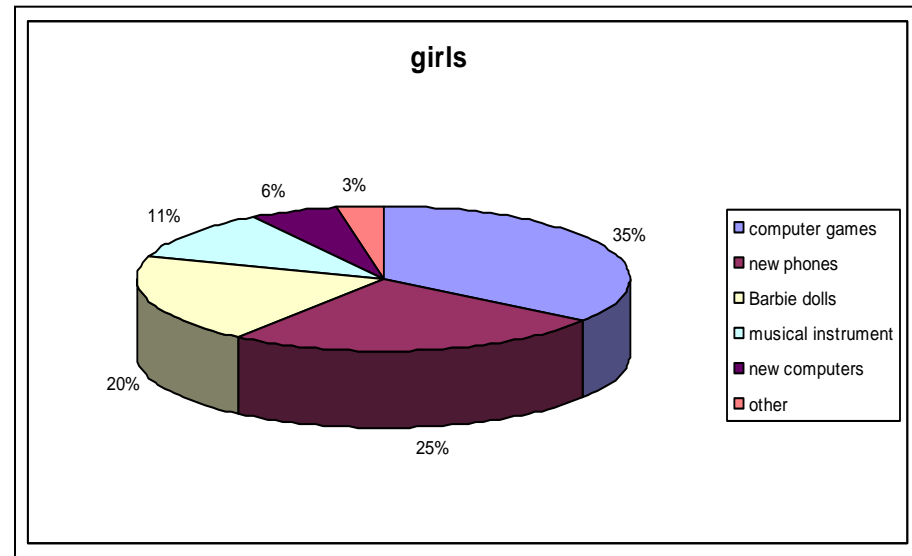
Results in Bulgaria – students

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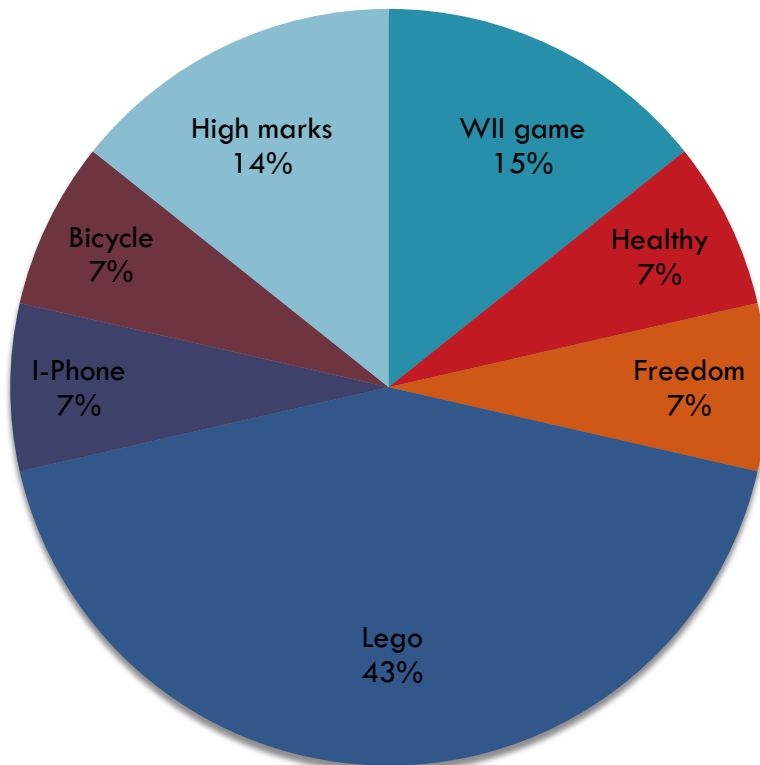
Girls



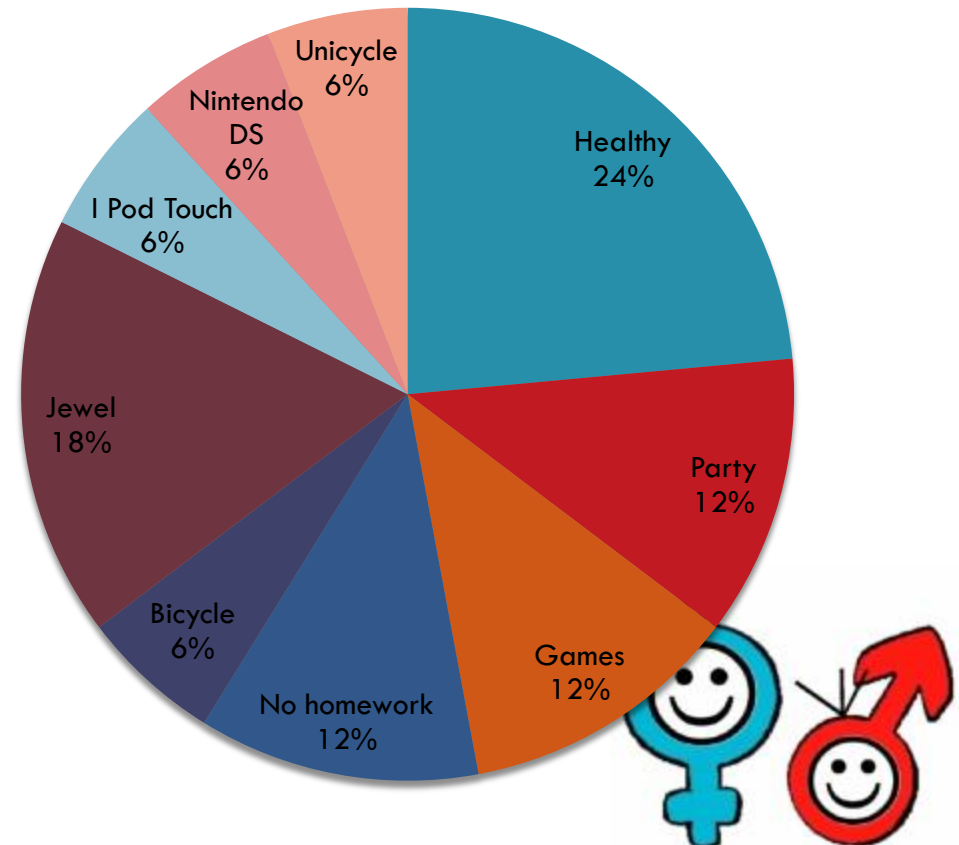
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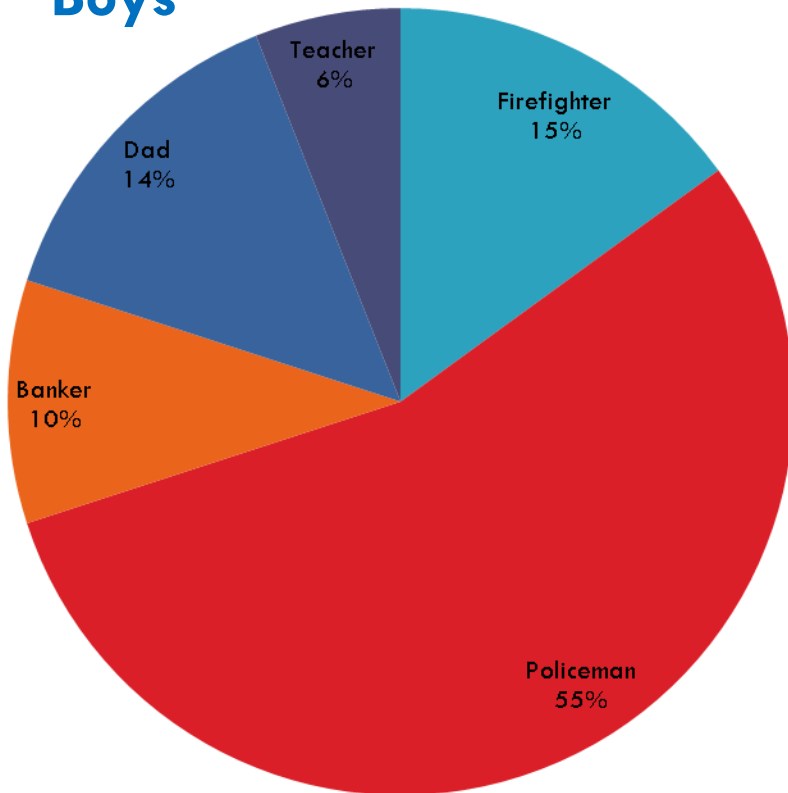
Girls



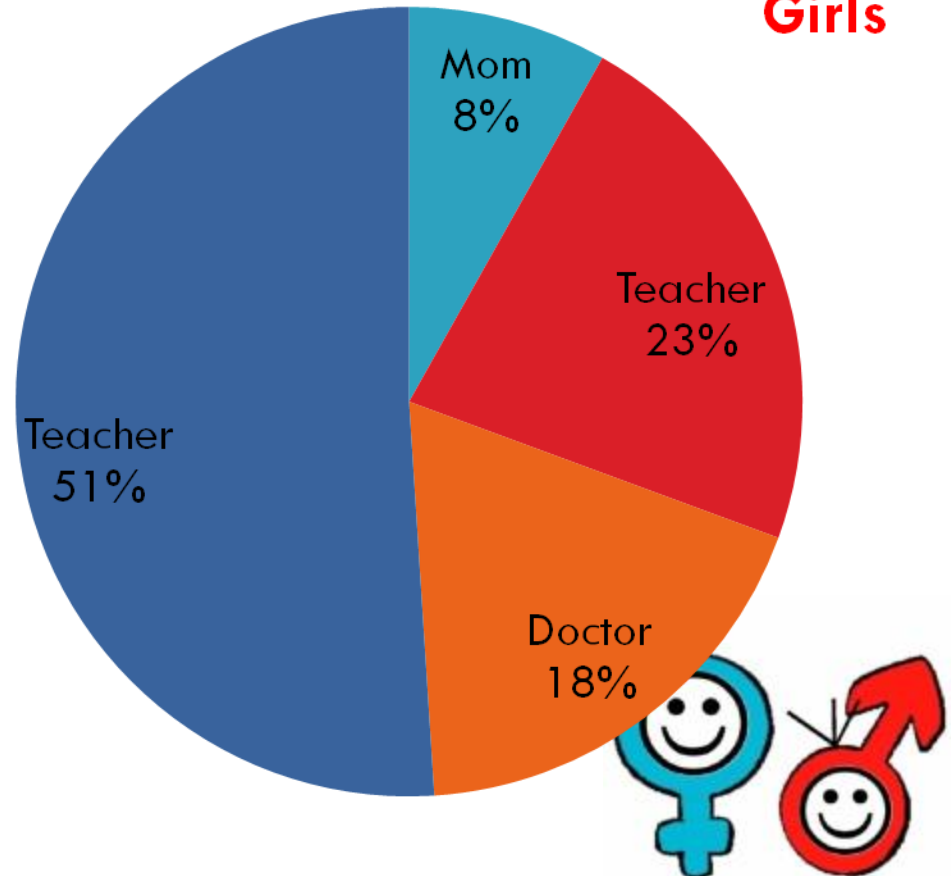
Results in USA – students

2) What kind of profession do you want to have later?

Boys



Girls

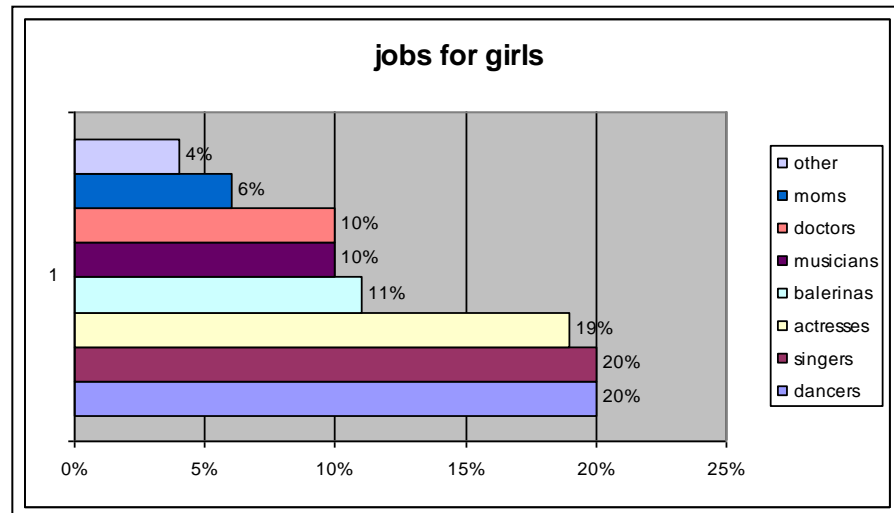
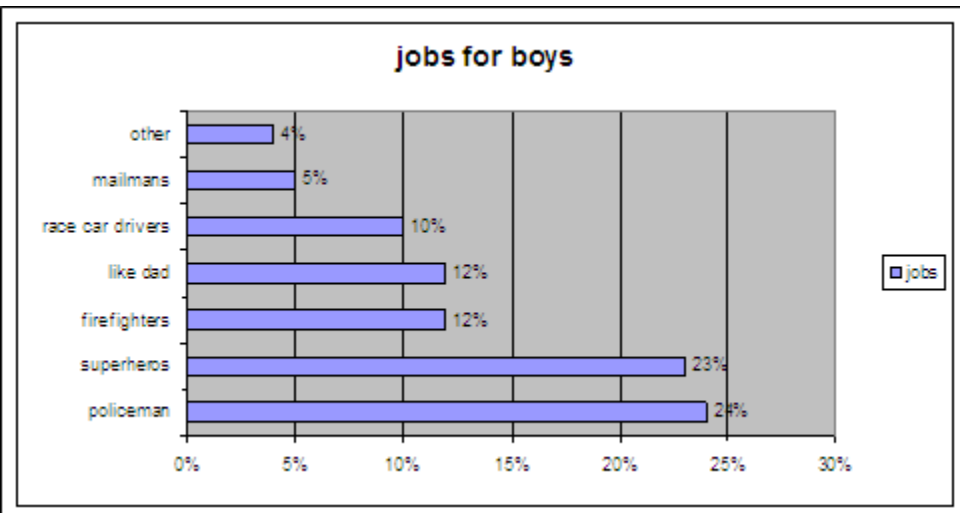


Results in Bulgaria – students

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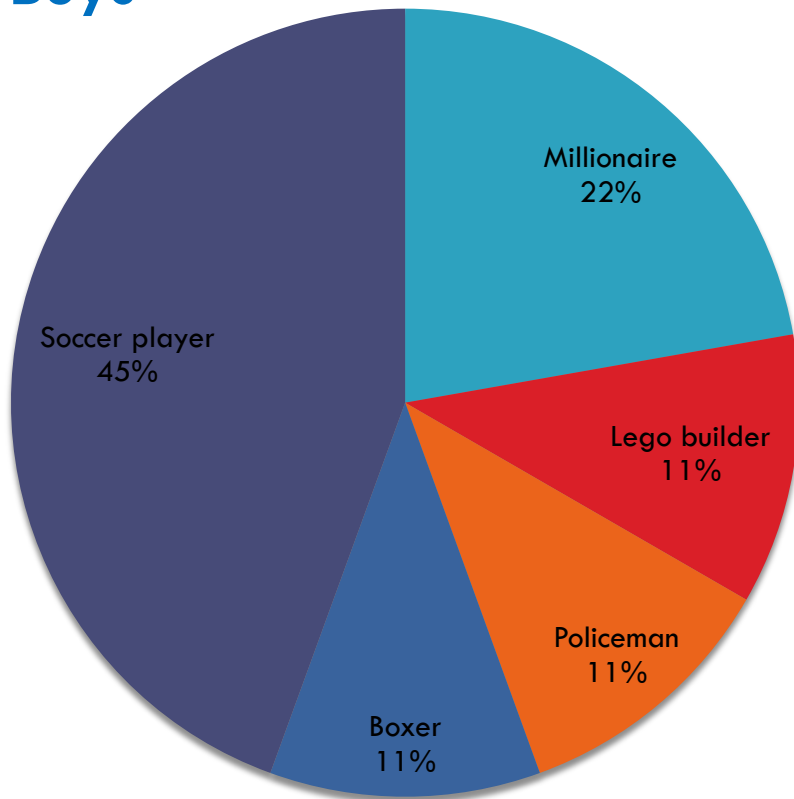
Girls



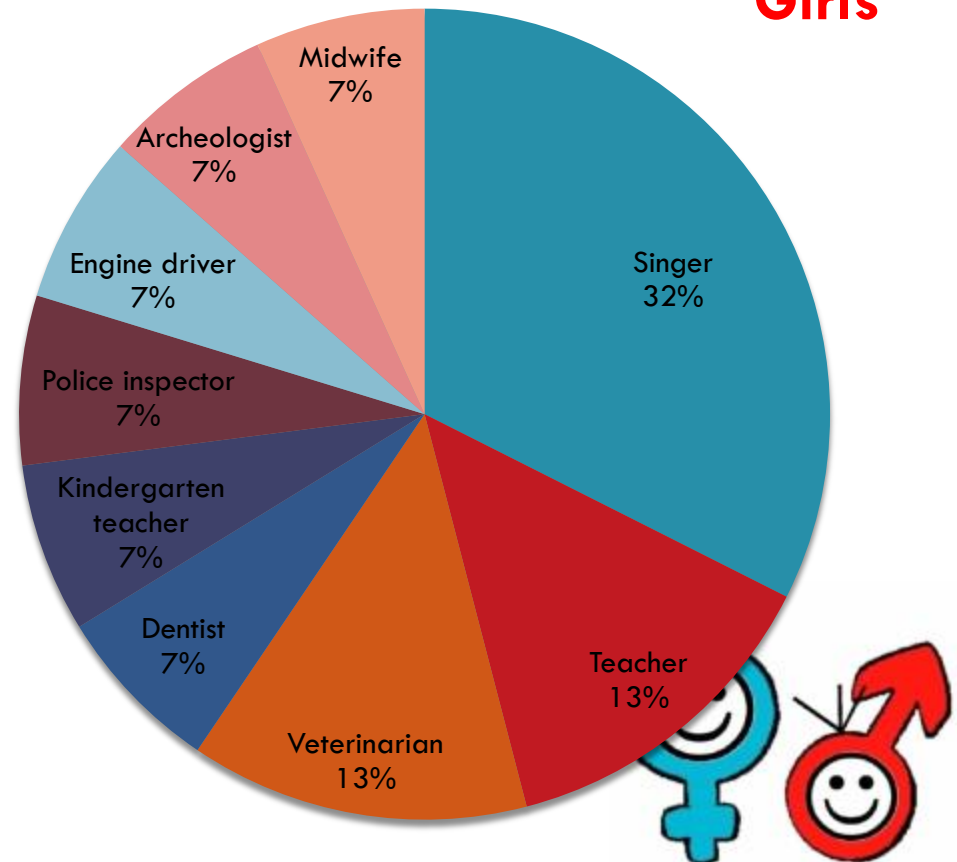
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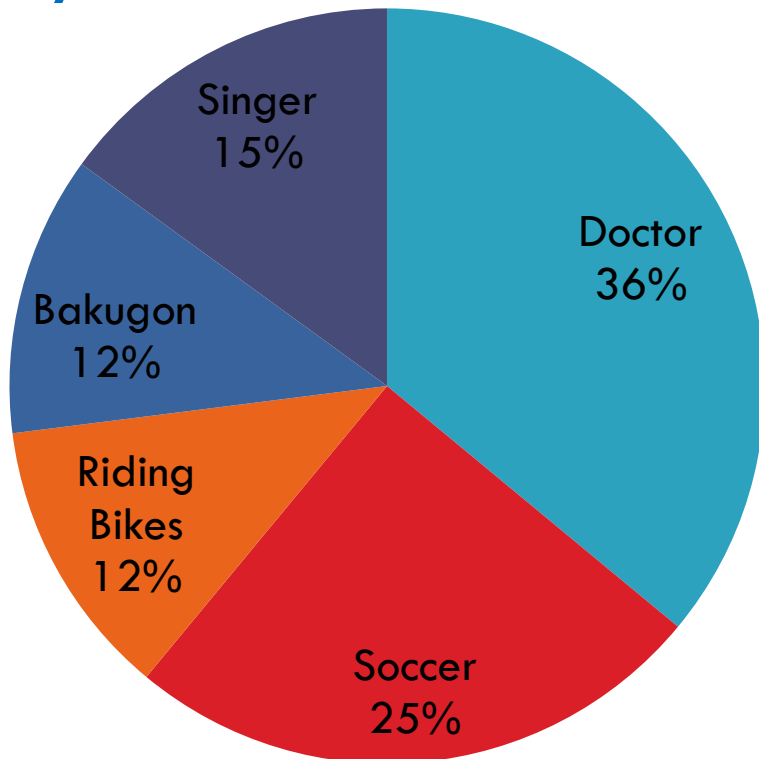
Girls



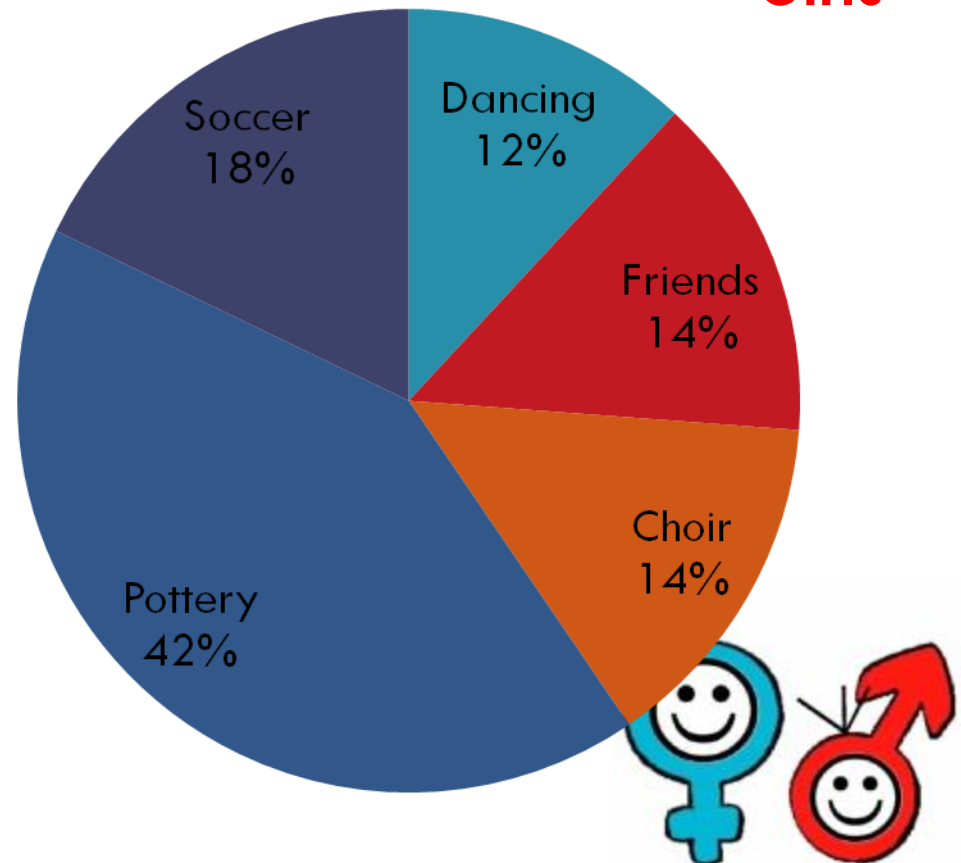
Results in USA – students

3) What are your hobbies?

Boys



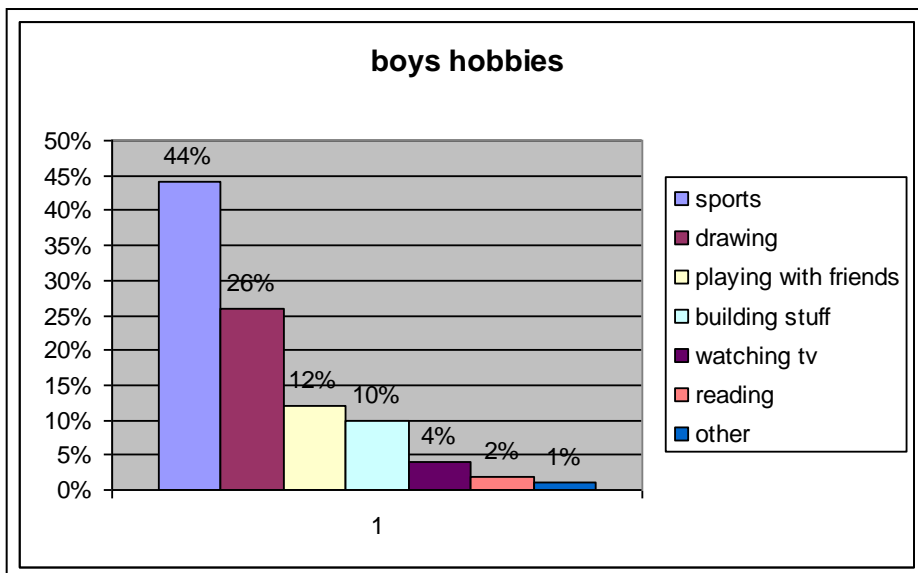
Girls



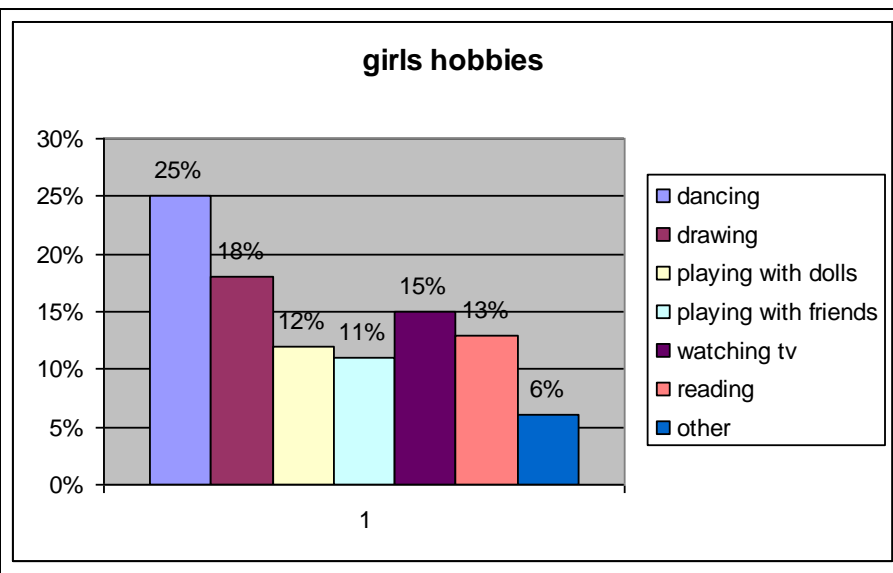
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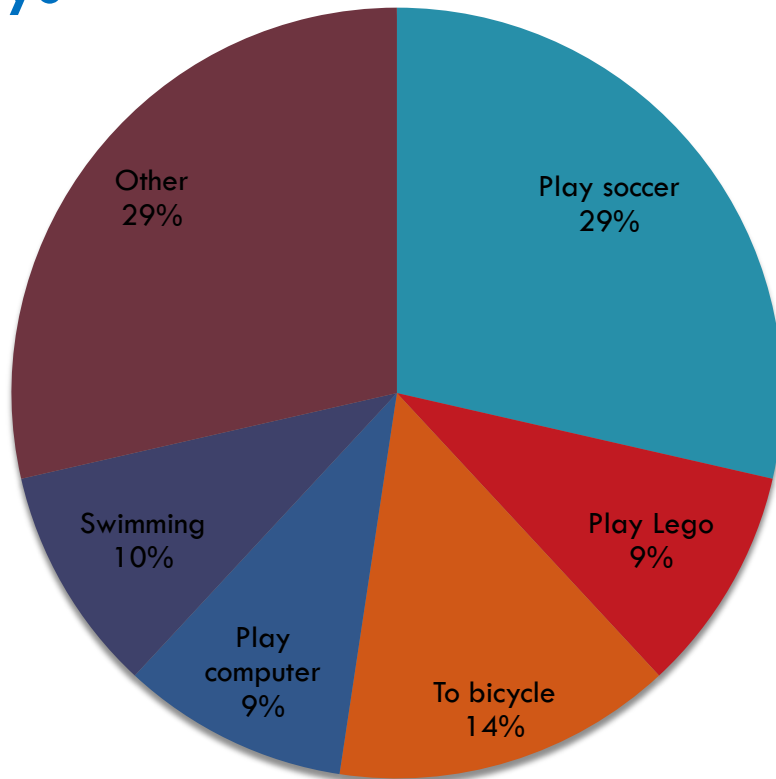
Girls



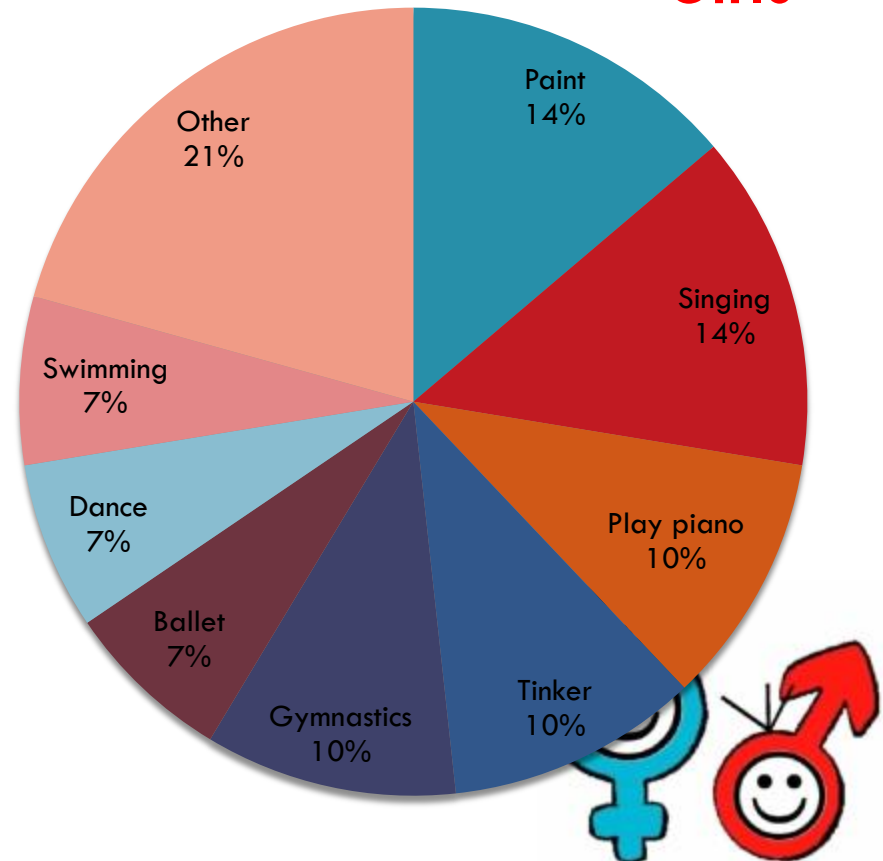
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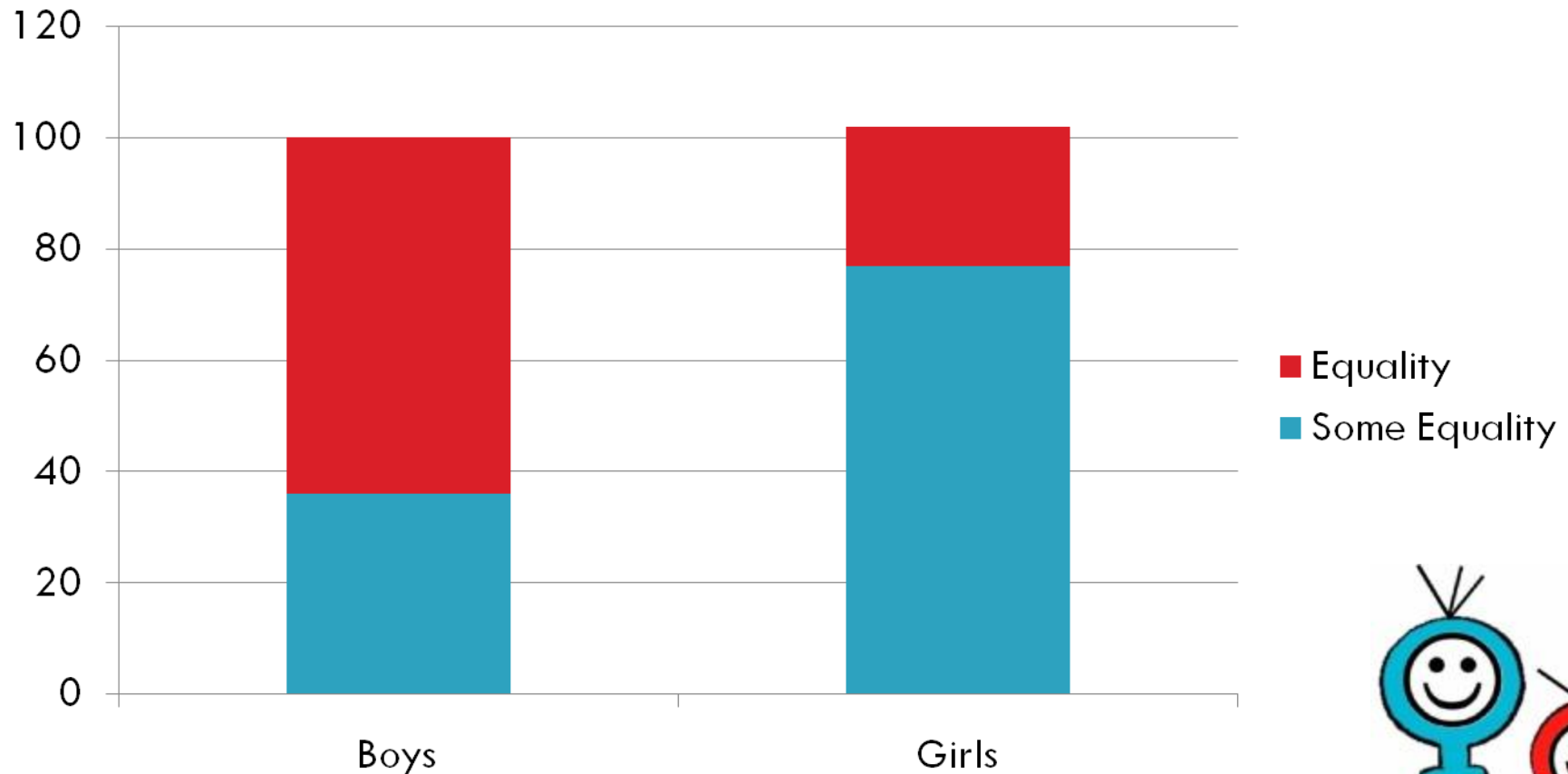


Girls



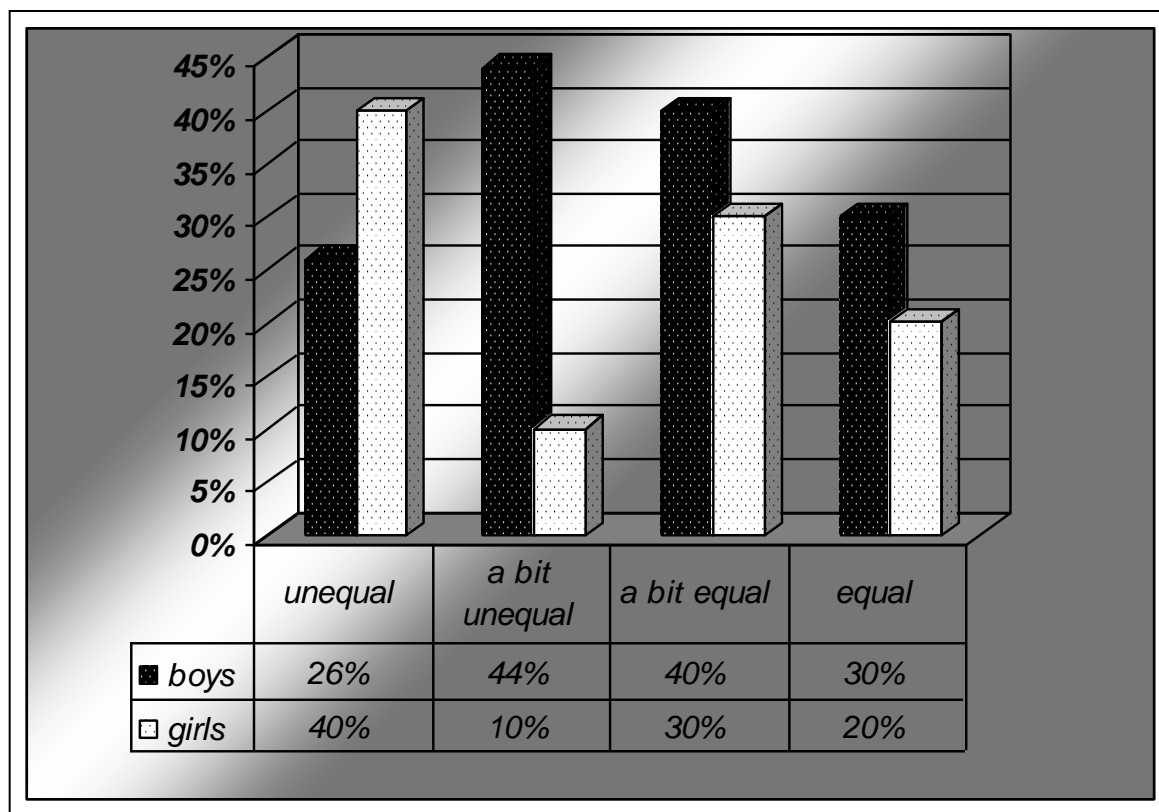
Results in USA – students

4) Do you think that boys and girls are treated equally in your class?



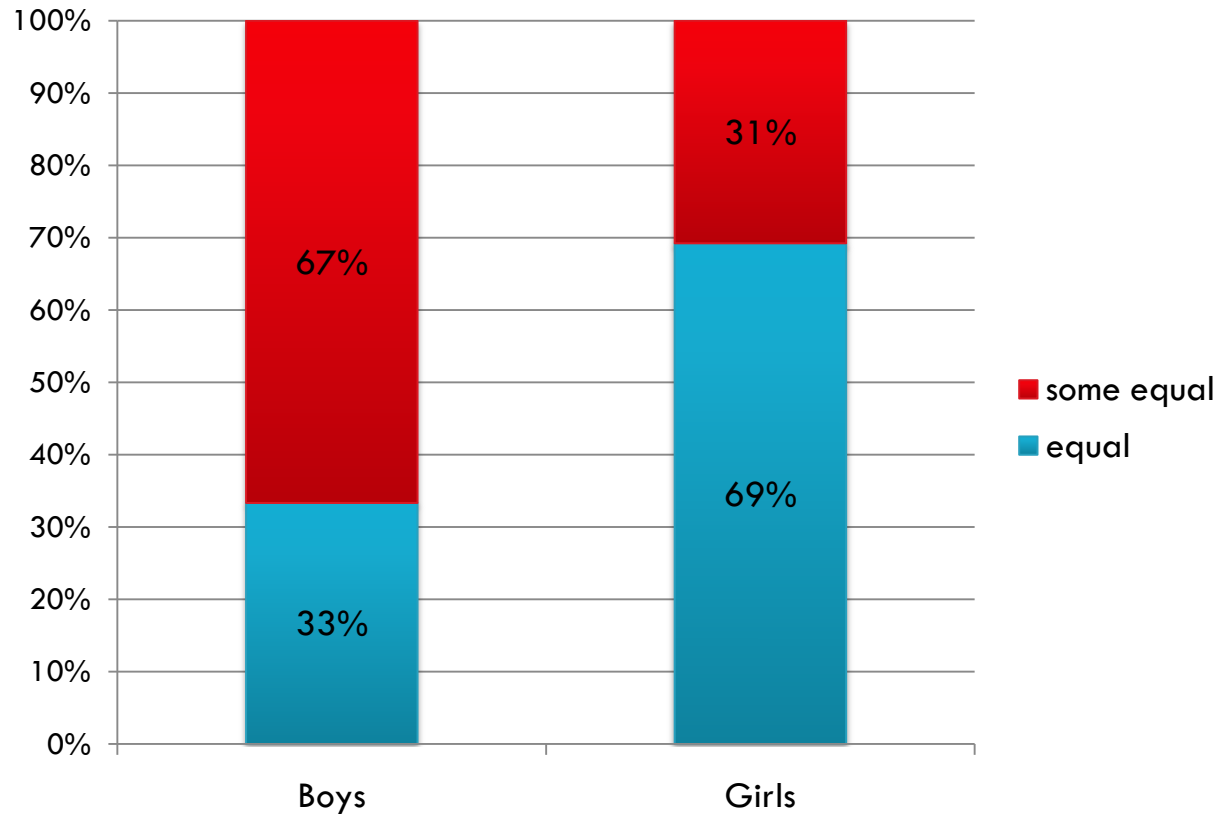
Results in Bulgaria – students

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Results in Germany – students

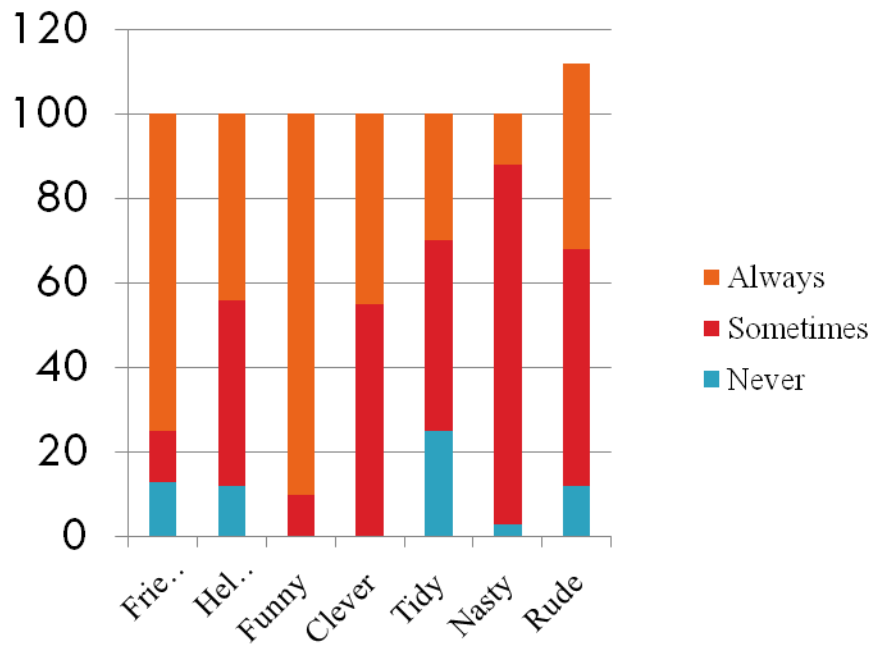
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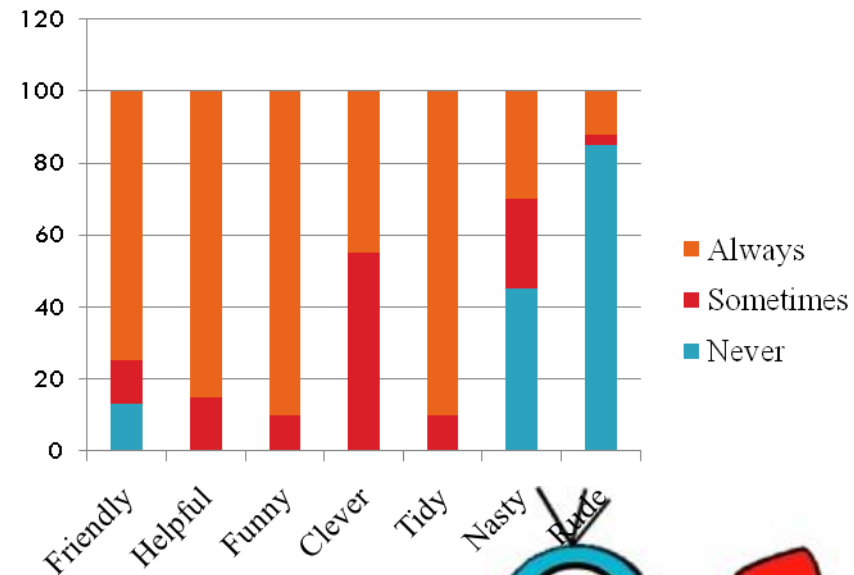
Results in USA – students

5) What do you think about the girls and boys in your class?

Boys about boys

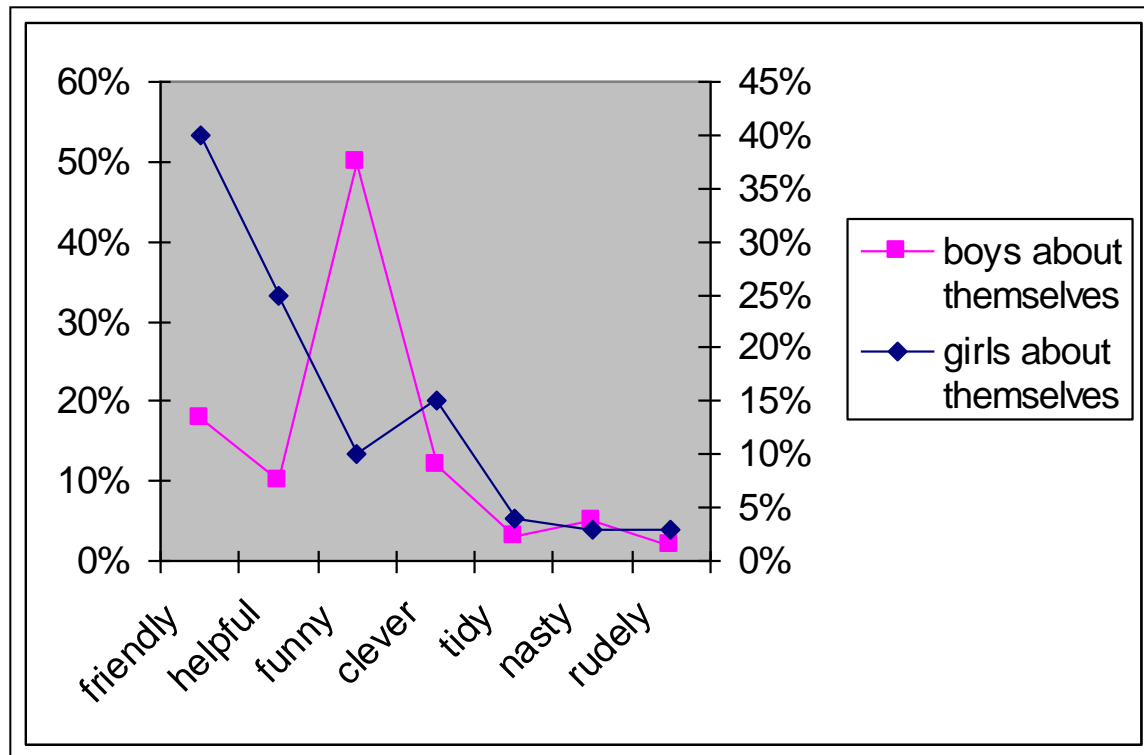


Boys about girls



Results in Bulgaria – students

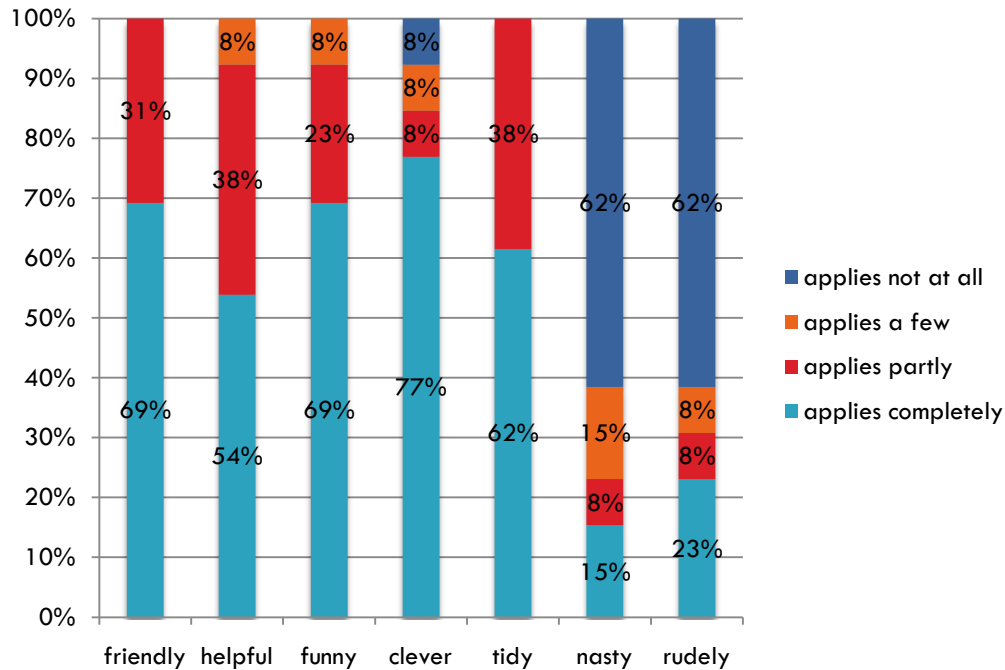
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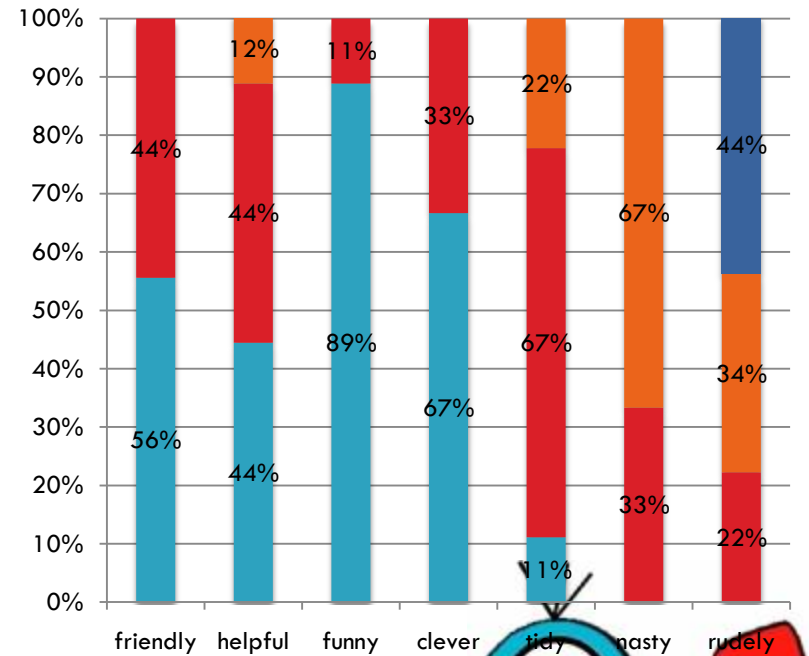
Results in Germany – students

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Girls about girls



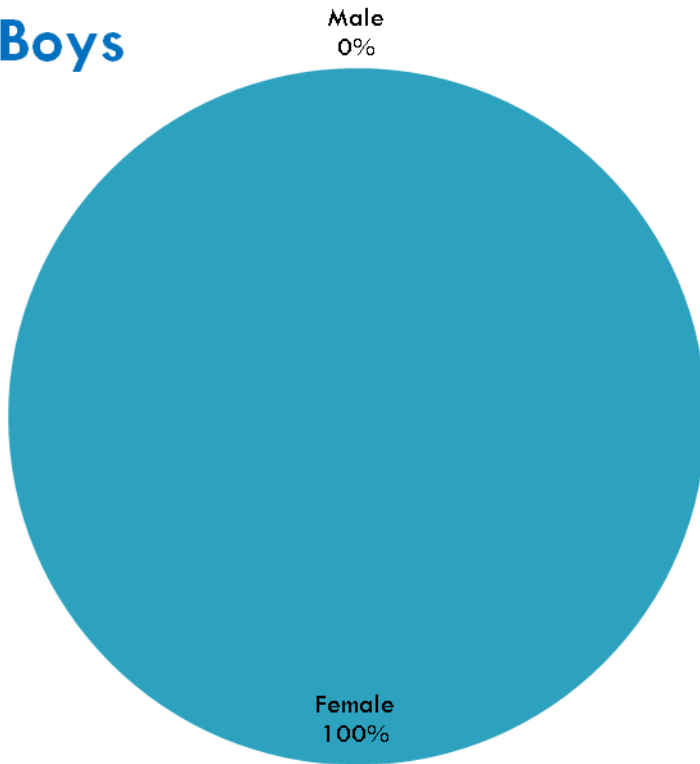
Boys about boys



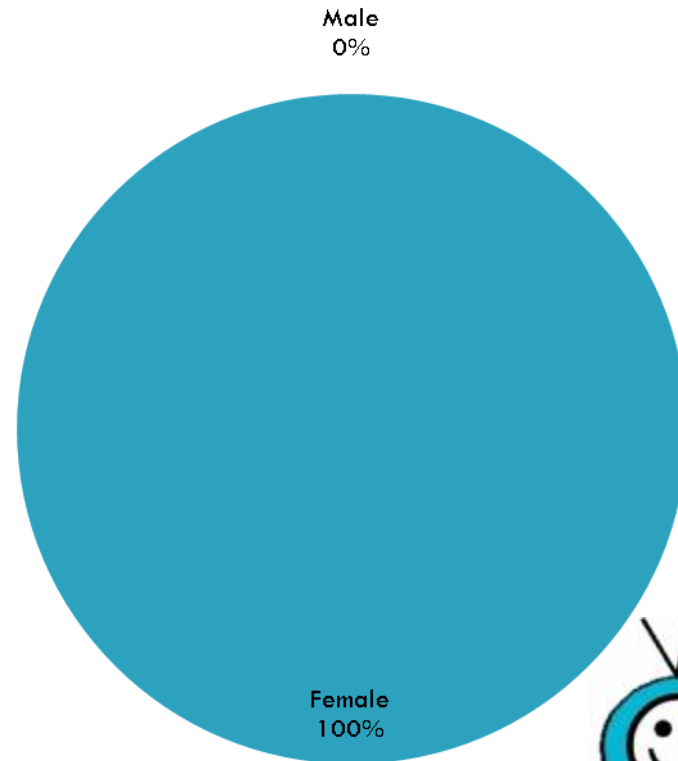
Results in USA – students

6) What would you like more as your teacher?

Boys

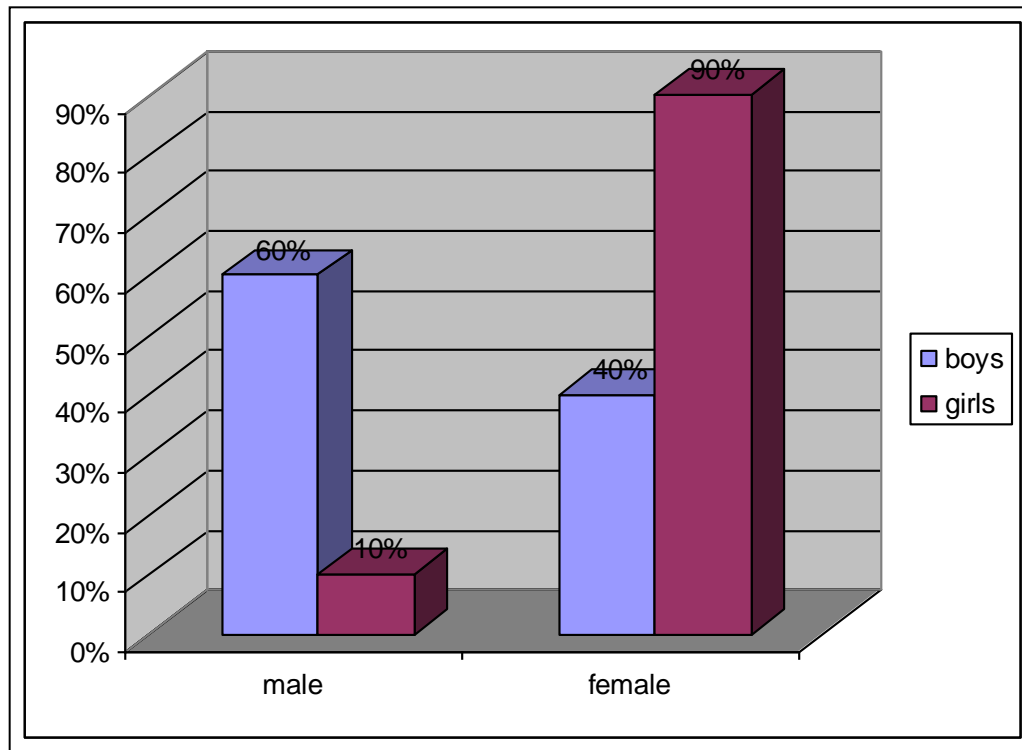


Girls



Results in Bulgaria – students

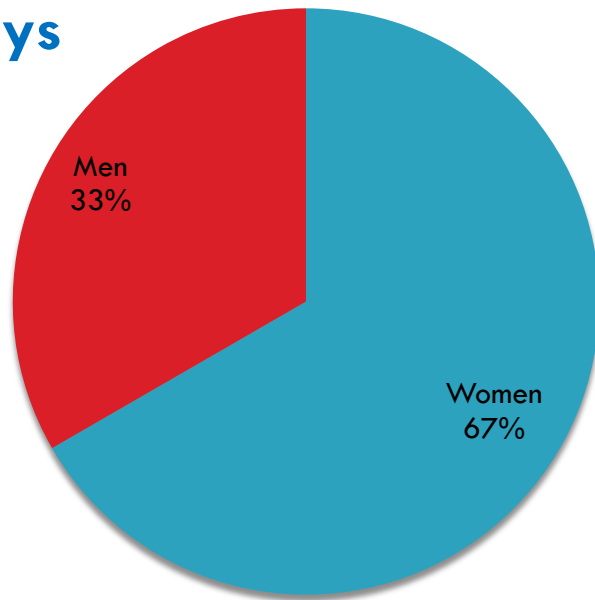
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Results in Germany – students

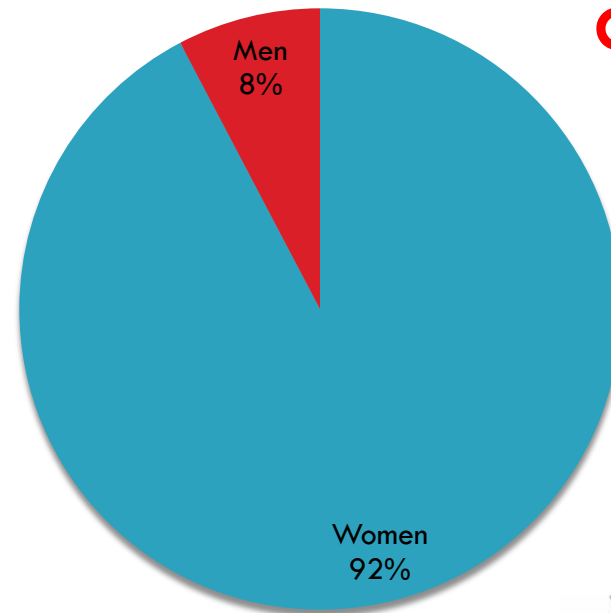
6) What would you like more as your teacher?

Boys



Against our hypothesis the boys prefer a woman as a teacher.

Girls



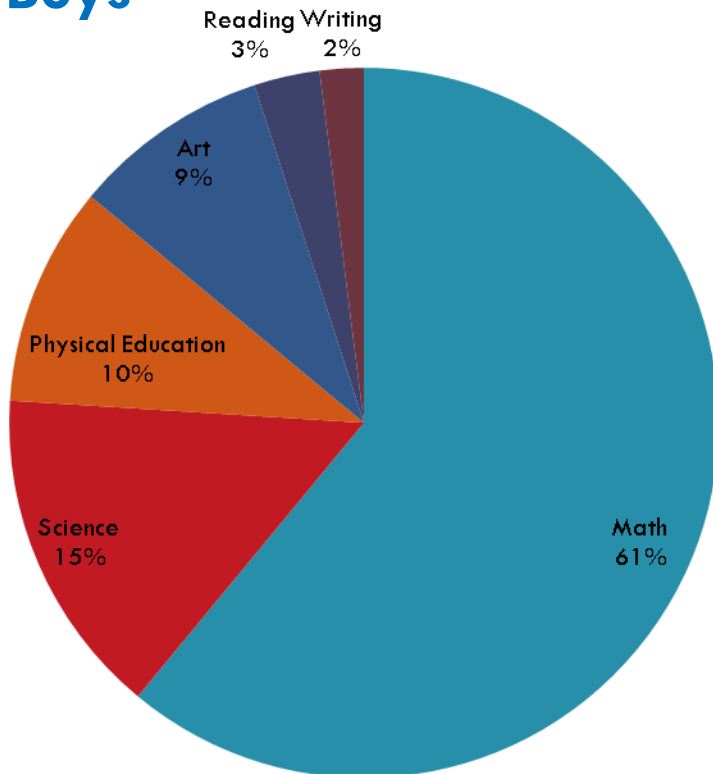
In accordance with our hypothesis the girls prefer female teachers.



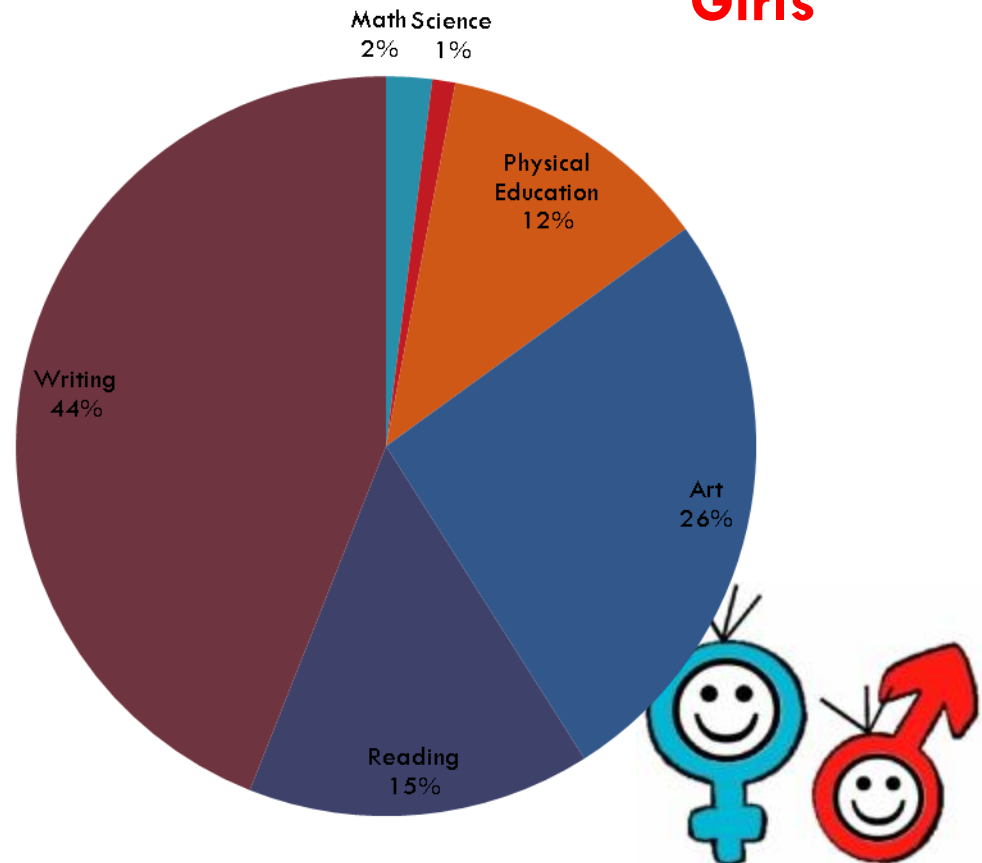
Results in USA – students

7) What is your favourite subject? Decide for one!

Boys

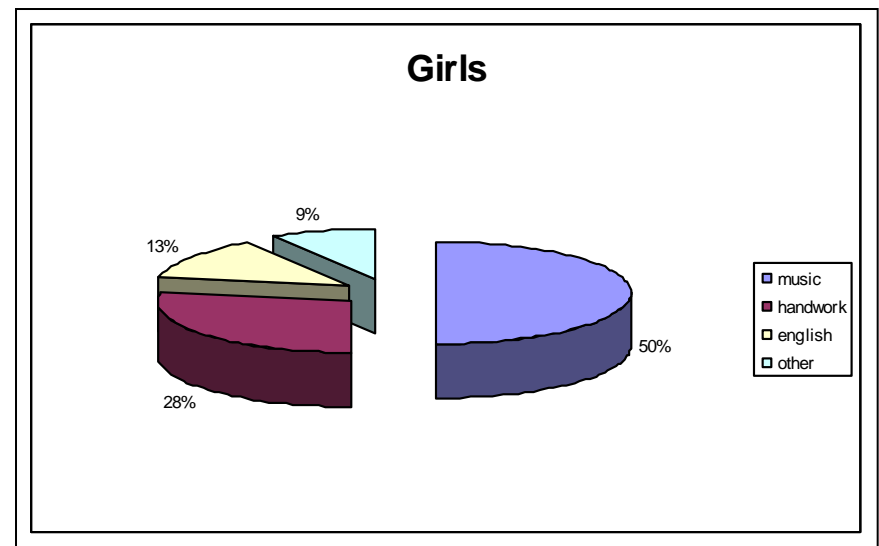
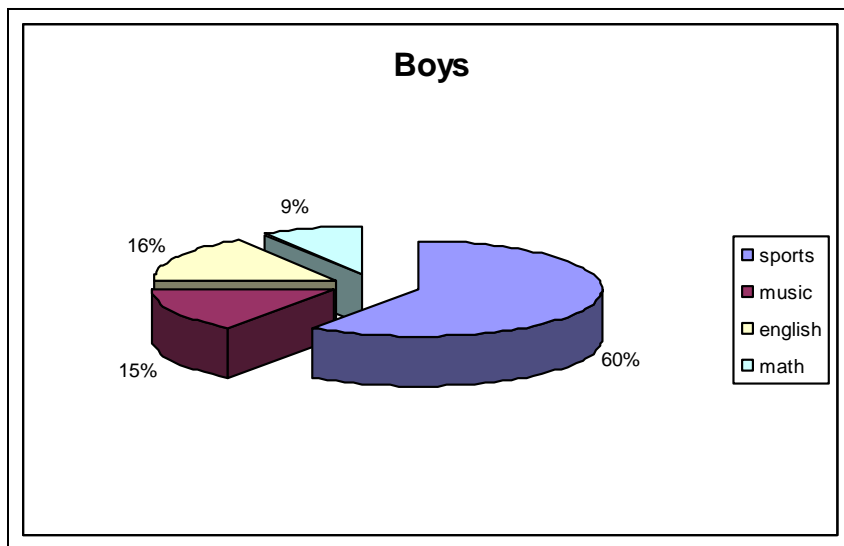


Girls



Results in Bulgaria – students

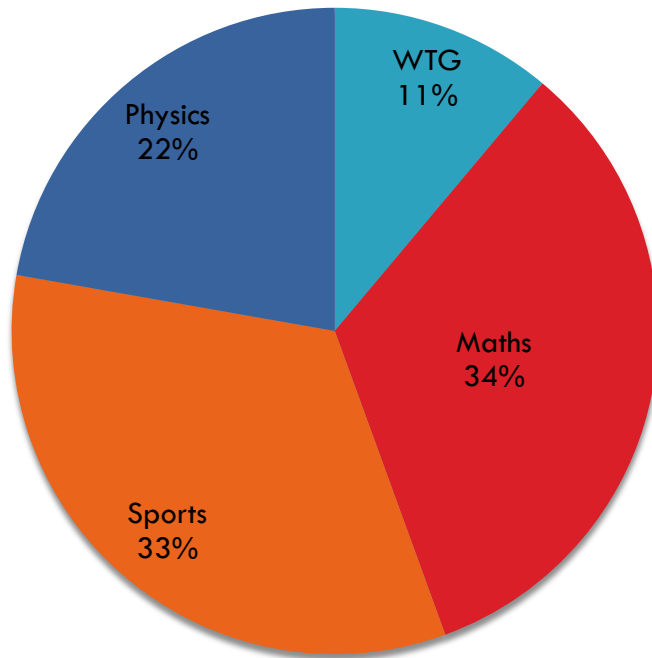
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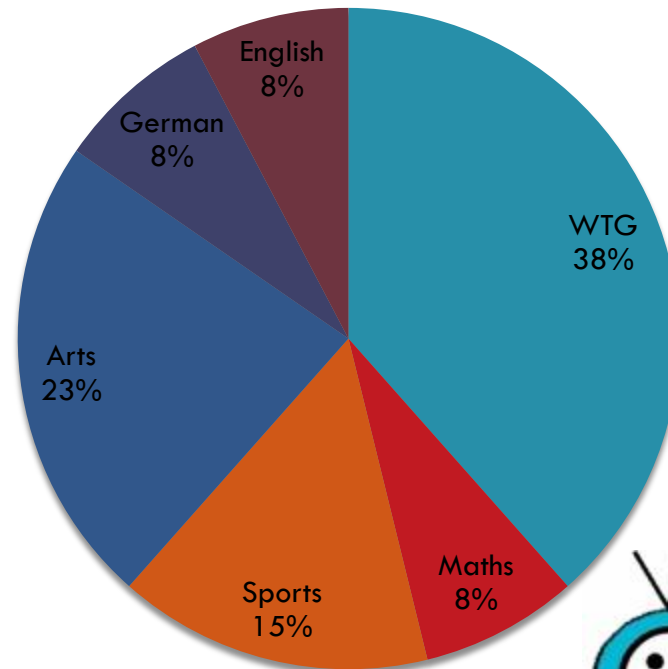
Results in Germany – students

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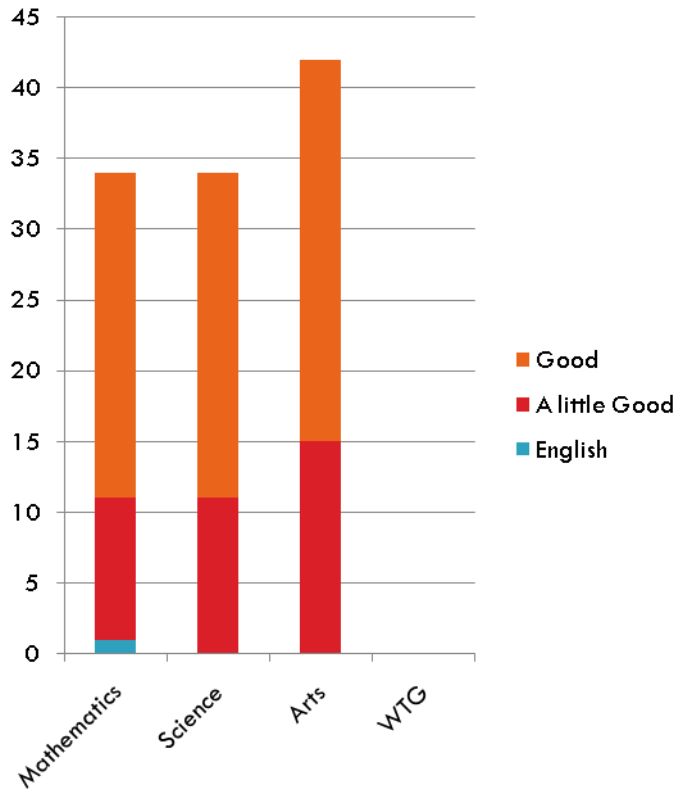
Girls



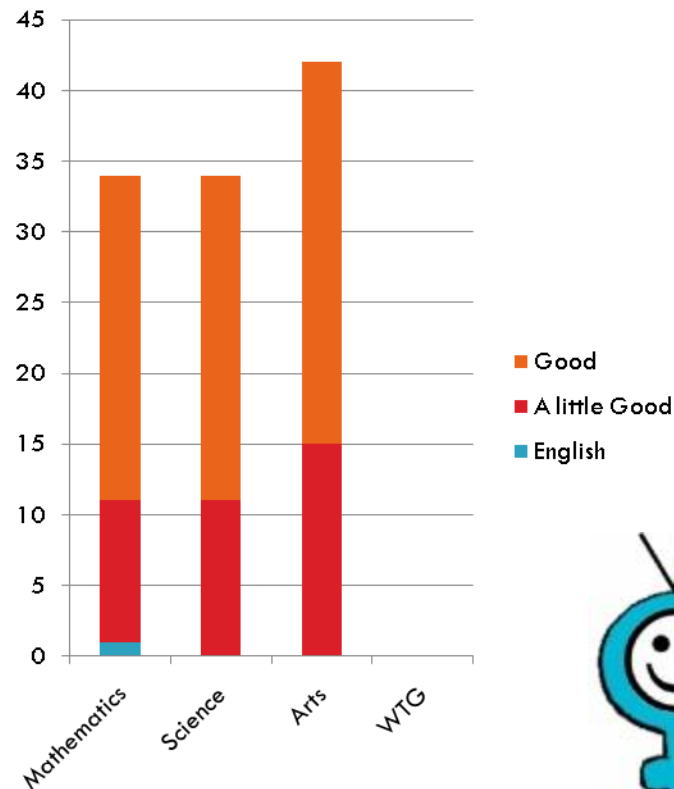
Results in USA – students

8) What do you think about the different subjects?

Boys



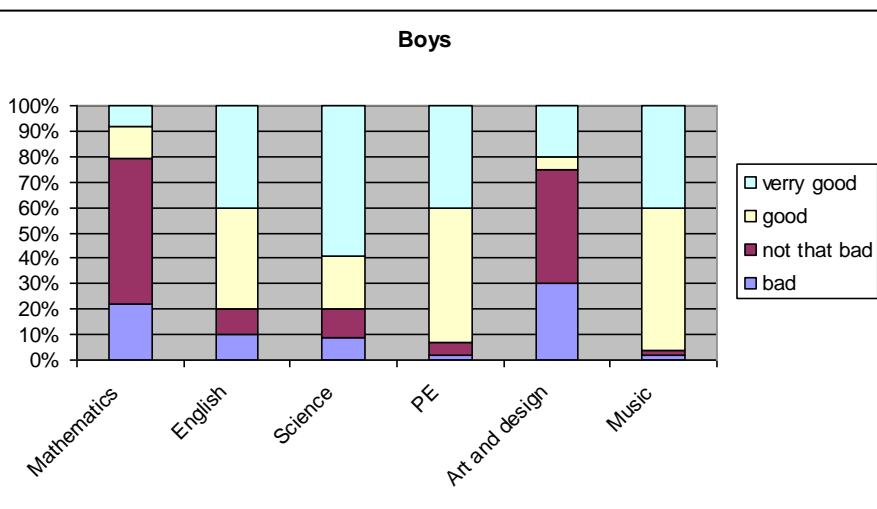
Girls



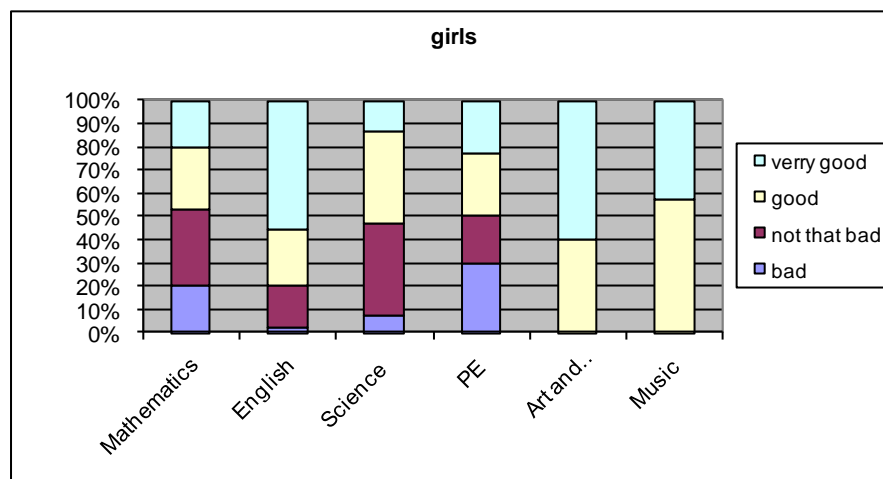
Results in Bulgaria – students

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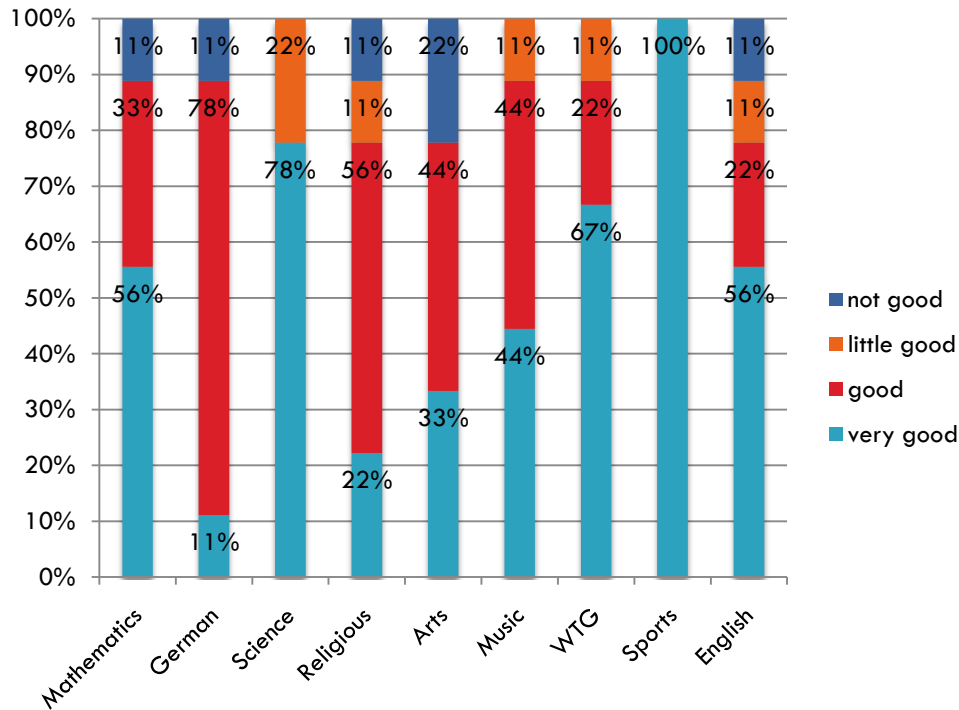
Girls



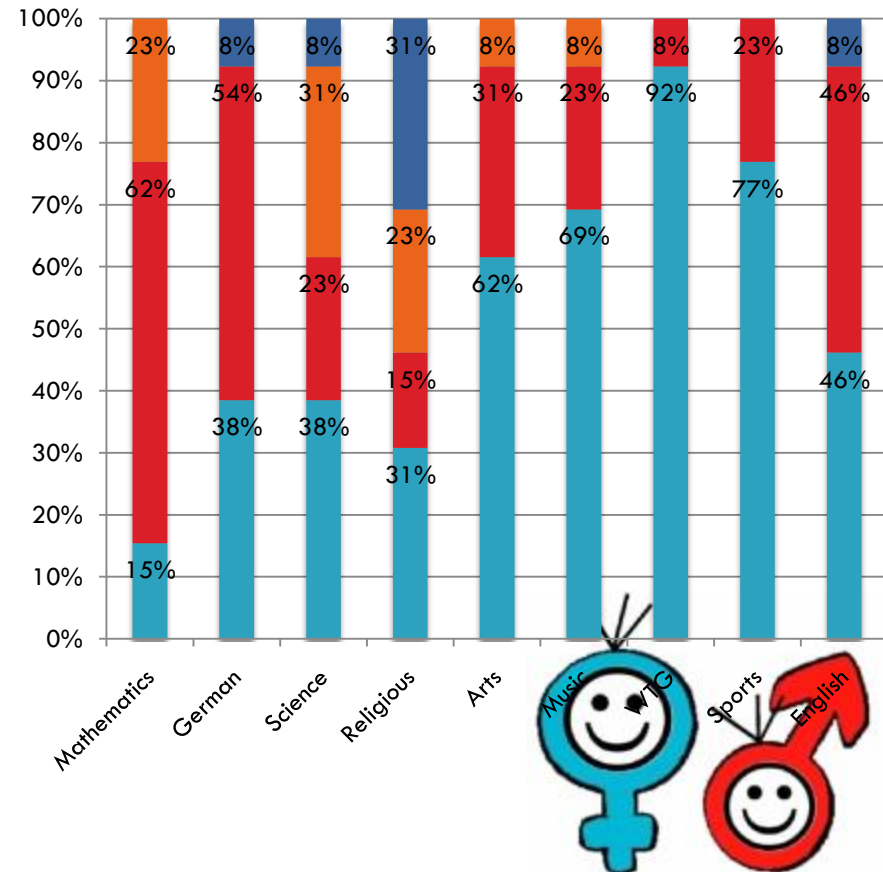
Results in Germany – students

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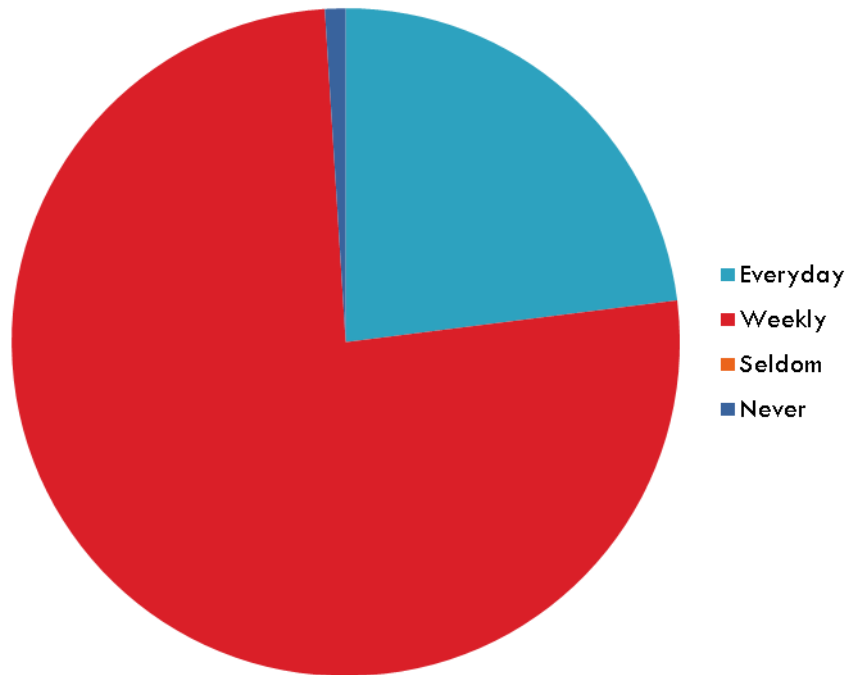
Girls



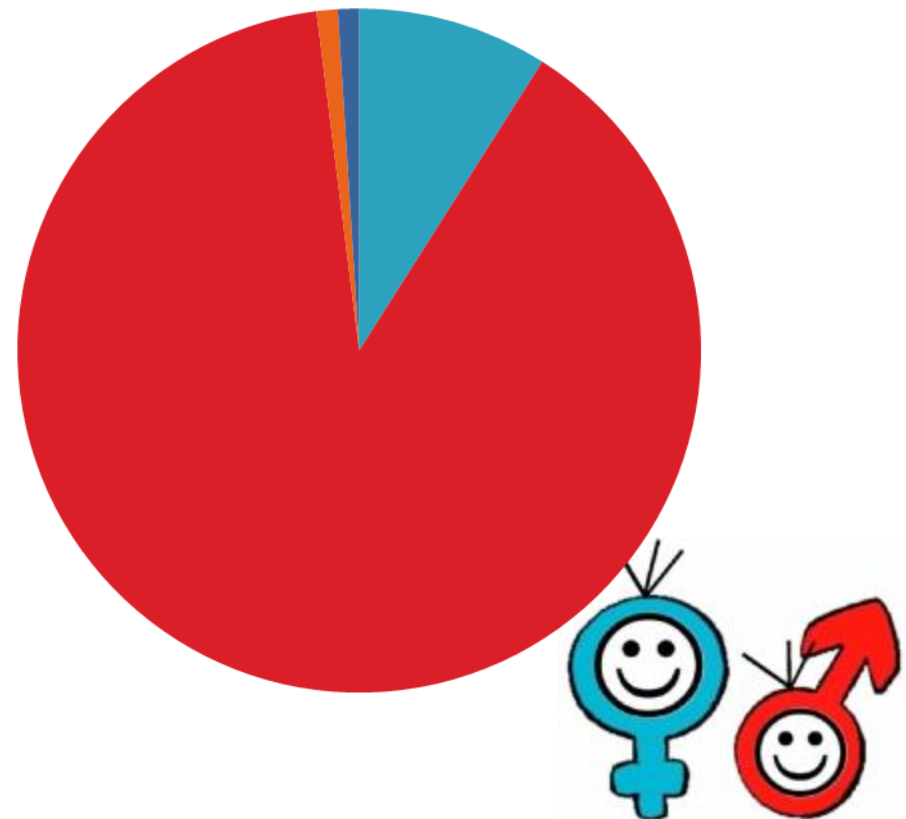
Results in USA – students

9) How often do you read a book or a magazine?

Boys



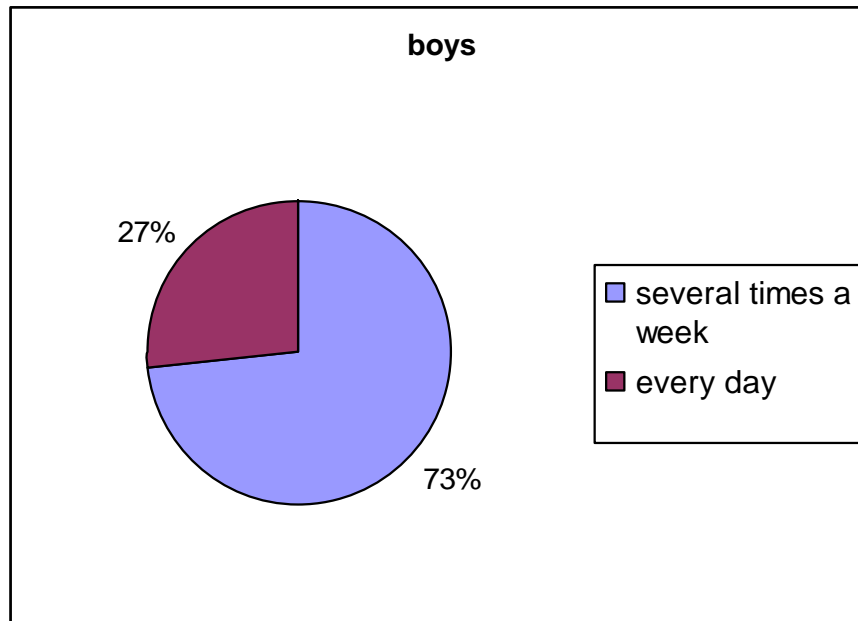
Girls



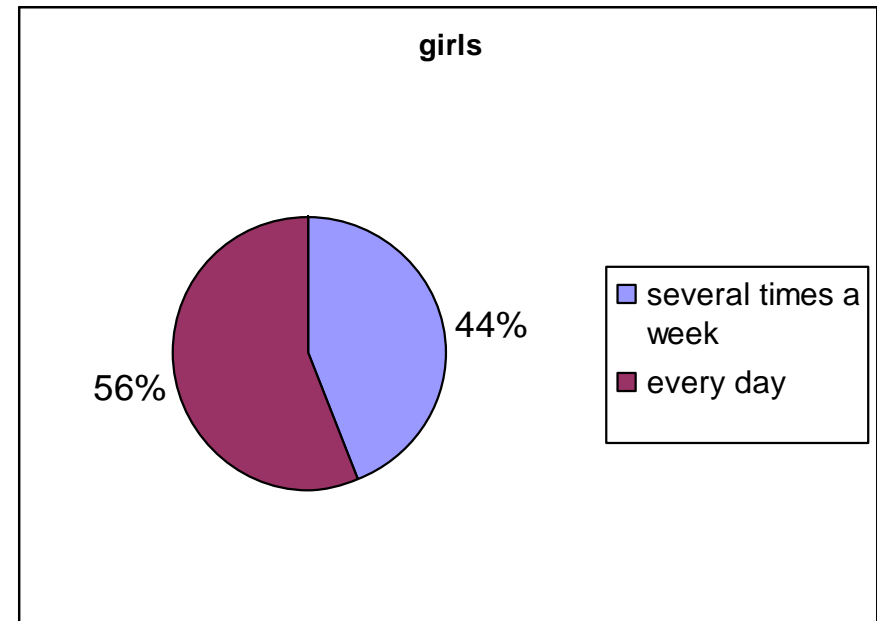
Results in Bulgaria – students

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Boys



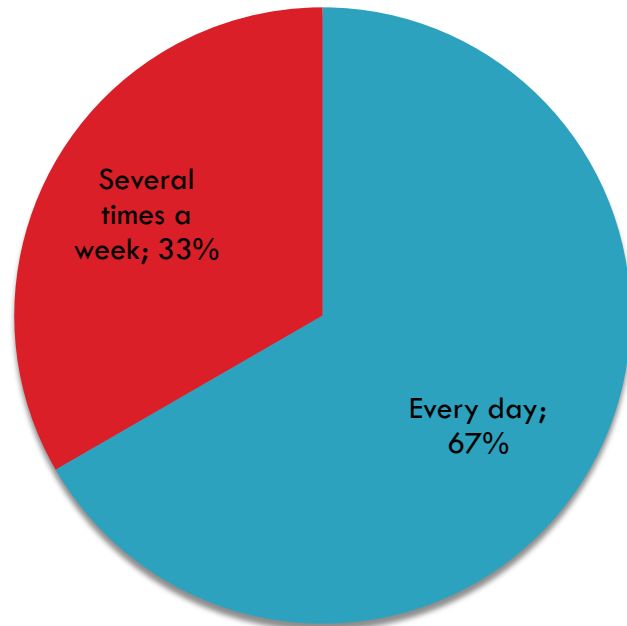
Girls



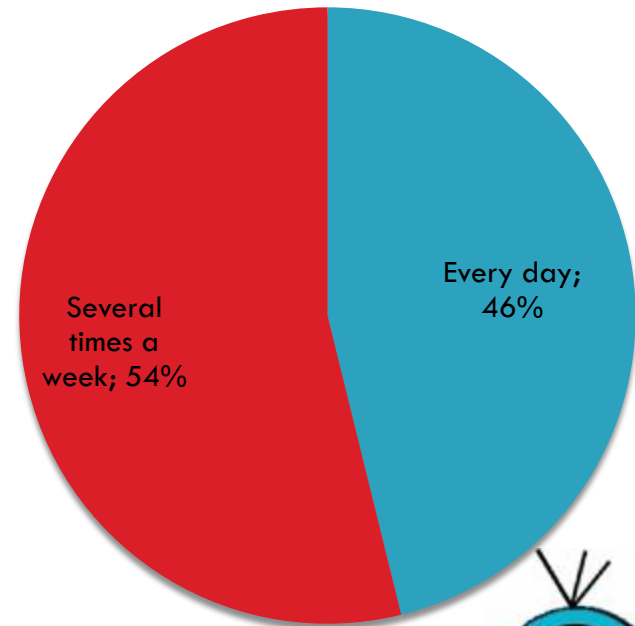
Results in Germany – students

9) How often do you read a book or a magazine?

Boys



Girls



Conclusion - students

USA:

Hypotheses 1, 6, 7 is proved true.

Hypotheses 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 is all proved false or in parts.

Bulgaria:

Hypotheses 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 is proved true.

Hypotheses 1 is all proved false or in parts.

Hypothesis 4 is not tested.

Germany:

Hypotheses 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 is proved true.

Hypotheses 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 is all proved false or in parts.



Teachers



Hypotheses

1. Boys have more interest and better results in subjects related to science.
2. Girls have more interest and better results in subjects like languages, arts and music.
3. Boys sometimes react with less respect to their teacher.
4. Girls are more empathetic referring to their classmates or friends.
5. Boys have several friends, girls often only one or two best friends.



Questionnaire for teachers

Dear teachers,

we are taking part in an international project of five different universities in different countries. This questionnaire addresses the topic "Interests of boys and girls - how teachers react to gender differences".

For that reason we would like to find out, how you as a professional experience these gender differences and how you react to it.

We thank you very much for taking part in our questionnaire.

A. Personal information

Male teacher female teacher

Grade:

B. Gender Differences

- 1) **What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning the particular subjects (Interests, learn attitude, effort etc.)?**

Subjects	Girls	Boys
Mathematics		
Englisch		
Science		
Geography		
Physical education		
Art and design		
History		
Music		
Modern foreign languages		



Questionnaire for teachers

2) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning their social behavior?

Behavior towards	Girls	Boys
teachers		
mates		
friends		

3) How do you react to the different interests of girls and boys concerning their....

Reaction	Girls	Boys
teaching structure		
choice of topics		
Other matters		

4) Do you think , that you react differently than your male / female colleague?

.....
.....

5) What kind of support would you expect to manage the gender differences?

.....



Results in USA-teachers

1) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning the particular subjects?	Boys	Girls
Math	Very competitive, understand easily, hard time with word problems, must have support	Lethargic with problems, excel with word problems, work good independently
Science	Imprecise drawings, develop more strategies, better results, weak reading	Better at work 1 on 1, less self confident, no space imagination, hesitant
	Love experiments, very precise, more hands on then girls, love the natural world	No questioning, verbalize better, interested in animals, better at experiments
English	Good at English	Good at English
Social Studies	Lack motivation, good knowledge of geography unlike girls	Extremenly interested in history/religion, willingness to complete project
Physical Education	Good hand eye cordination, love anything relating to balls / running, very competitive	Somewhat competitive, some girls are VERY competitive, most girls love floor excercises (pilates / stretching)
Music	Lack rhythm, love to participate	Love movement, solo's, singing aloud
Art	Effortless	Very detailed
Languages	Bad penmanship, careless when reading long passages, lack detail	Detailed oriented, love writing...especially long stories

Results in Bulgaria-teachers

1) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning the particular subjects (interests, learn attitude, effort etc.)?

Subject	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more concentrated- learn faster-don't like it very much but work hard-better in geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- develop strategies-harder learning attitude-more concentrated when it involves games



Results in Germany - teachers

1) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning the particular subjects (interests, learn attitude, effort etc.)?

Subject	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- worse space imagination- more hardworking (1x1)- hesitant (puzzling exercises)- less self-confident- less excellent results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- draw imprecisely in geometry- easily to inspire for geometry- develop more strategies- read work orders imprecisely- more excellent results



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- better in spelling- like to read a lot- find it hard but interesting and enjoy the lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- find it hard- read less- make more mistakes- enjoy spelling games- like to tell stories



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
German	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- better readers (read more)- read more accentuated- describe more details- longer essays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- read less- read less accentuated- describe less details- handwriting often untidy (fine motor skills, patience)
Subject	Girls	Boys
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more self-confident to speak (also to make mistakes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more hesitant to speak



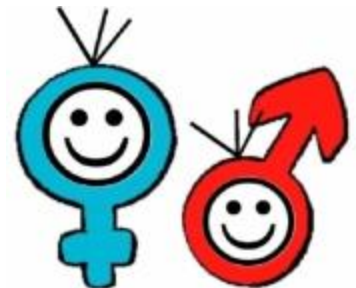
Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Geography/ Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- less motivated- find geography more interesting- enjoy lessons about animals and plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- like science better- participate in lessons more- read more- like doing research



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Geography/ Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more hardworking in reciting- question less- verbalize better (experiment)- more interested in animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- often intrinsic motivation- more expertise- more interested in technical topics, natural phenomenons



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Physical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-more interested in games, dancing- find it harder and not that interesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- like ball games- enjoy every game- don't like dancing- tend to brake rules and tease the girls



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Physical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- better in floor exercises- more interested in games, dancing, gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- higher use of body in ball sports- very interested in ball sports- hate dancing- often problems with rules



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- love it, think it's the best class- very hard working- very creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- faster in creating things but not that imaginative- get easily bored



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- work neatlier- very detailed (more creative)- more patience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more unskilled (fine motor skills)- hate handicraft work- faster (less patience)



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- enjoy in a lot- a lot can play instruments- better singers- learn lyrics faster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- like the drums a lot- enjoy faster songs- have problem with rules and get easily distracted but still enjoy singing



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- many play whistle, piano- better results in singing- like moving to songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- like more playing guitar, drums- worse results in singing- worse feeling for rhythm



Results in Germany - teachers

Subject	Girls	Boys
Religion/Ethics	- better empathy - more interested	- less discipline



Results in USA-teachers

2) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning their social behavior?

Main Social Differences	Boys	Girls
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Try to get away with more-Very straightforward-Loud-Competitive-Lackadaisical-Less sensitive-Very forgiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Better rule followers-Better listeners-More compassionate-More pleasing-Has a lot of cliques-Holds grudges-Extremely sensitive



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

2) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning their social behavior?

Behavior towards	Girls	Boys
teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- get easily attached to their teachers- some are a bit more shy- overall like being close and helpful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- tend to ignore the rules- more self confident- don't like to help much



Results in Germany - teachers

2) What are the main differences between boys and girls concerning their social behavior?

Behavior towards	Girls	Boys
teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- want more closeness- sneak more- like to assume organizational duties- mostly follow the rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- more self-confident, cooler- louder- often ignore rules



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

Behavior towards	Girls	Boys
mates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- like to hang in groups of 2 or 3- can be cruel sometimes- have more fights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- have bigger groups- get along easier- less complicated relations



Results in Germany - teachers

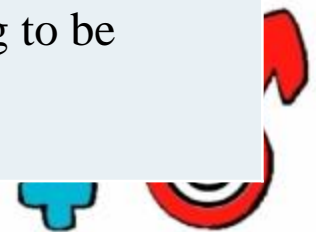
Behavior towards	Girls	Boys
mates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- verbal conflicts- more unforgiving- more social competence- more two-party realtions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- corporal conflicts- less complicated- less sensitive- more groups



Results in USA-teachers

3) How do you react to the different interests of boys and girls concerning your...?

Reaction	Boys	Girls
Teaching Structure	Whole class, more 'lecture' type learning, very motivational / competitive learning, long time for completion	Working in groups, helping the teacher, quick time for completion
Choice of Topics	When you teach you have to go by the NCSCOS (the standards) and unless the topic of a students interest is covered in a standard it is likely not going to be taught.	When you teach you have to go by the NCSCOS (the standards) and unless the topic of a students interest is covered in a standard it is likely not going to be taught.



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

3) How do you react to the different interests of boys and girls concerning your...?

Reaction	Girls	Boys
teaching structure	- give more reading and writing homework	- more games



Results in Germany - teachers

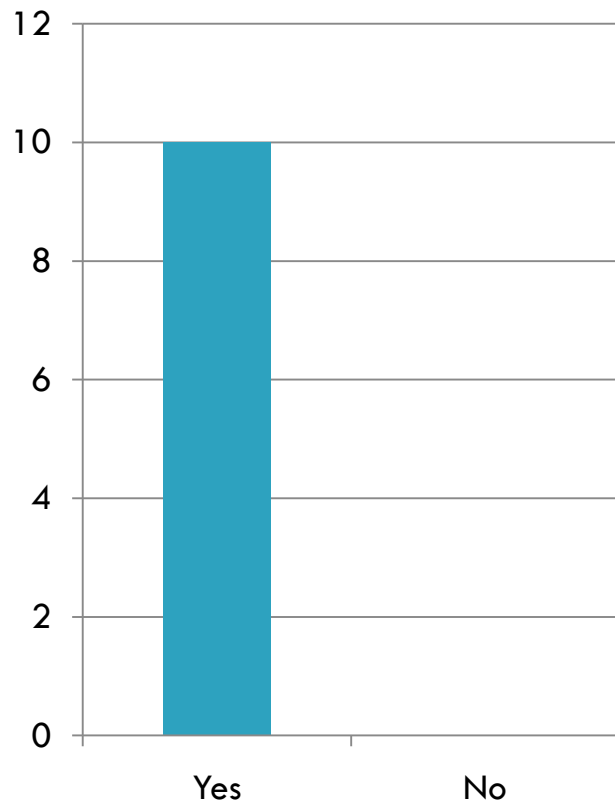
3) How do you react to the different interests of boys and girls concerning your...?

Reaction	Girls	Boys
teaching structure	- more visual and verbal impulses	- more work with material - more breaks for motion
Reaction	Girls	Boys
choice of topics	Unfortunately the teaching plan doesn't offer many possibilities to react to the different interests, especially in the main subjects.	



Results in USA-teachers

4) Do you think that you react differently than your male colleague?



- Male teachers are less of problem solvers
- Male teachers think more narrow mindedly
- Female teachers are more of problem solvers and work through the problem as opposed to blaming and moving on
- Female teachers are less forgiving than male teachers



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

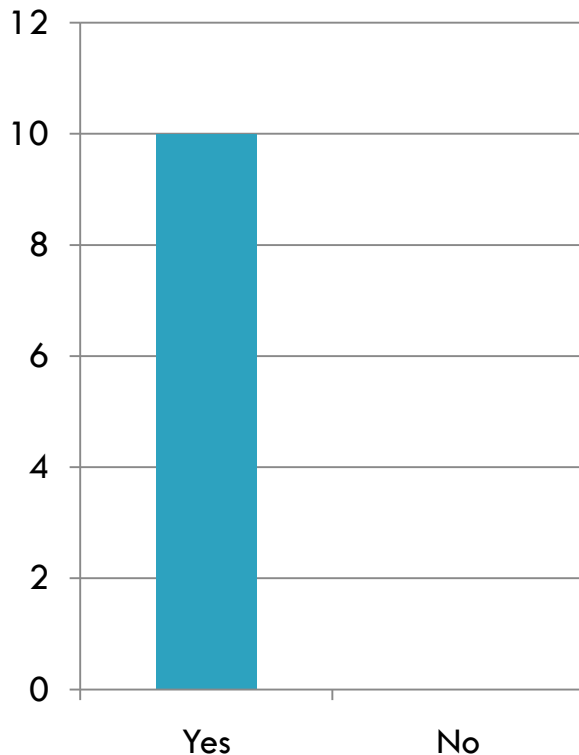
4) Do you think that you react differently than your male colleague?

Unfortunately there aren't any male teachers in this school but the a female teacher said she had worked with a male teacher and she says she thinks man react a lot different towards children, they give a great deal to discipline and not so much to the individual work. Children tend to fear more their male teacher but learn a lot easier from a female teacher.



Results in Germany - teachers

4) Do you think that you react differently than your male colleague?



- men react more severely concerning corporal conflicts
- men evaluate other behaviors as problematic
- women are often a „mother-compensation“
- leading-behavior of men is more accepted, especially concerning boys (→ less conflicts)



Results in USA-teachers

5) What kind of support would you expect to manage the gender differences?

- Not a lot of big support...where would we be able to get support like this when we have no money to invest
- Parental Support
- Studies / Reports
- Other colleagues



Results in Bulgaria-teachers

5) What kind of support would you expect to manage the gender differences?

- financial help to try and create better environment and develop the differences because they are what make the children unique
- ideas from other schools, teachers, countries how they deal with the differences



Results in Germany - teachers

5) What kind of support would you expect to manage the gender differences?

- no support, differences are not always a disadvantage
- more acceptance of these differences
- information about how to increase the awareness of these differences
- more male contacts in primary schools (especially for boys of single mothers)
- more male teachers in primary schools



Conclusion - teachers

USA:

Hypotheses 1,2,3,4 are proved true.

Hypotheses 5 is proved false or in parts.

Bulgaria:

Hypotheses 2,3,5 are proved true.

Hypotheses 1,4 are proved false or in parts.

Germany:

Hypotheses 1,2,3,5 are proved true.

Hypotheses 4 is proved false or in parts.



Sources

- Wiesemann, Jutta: Jungs spinnen – Mädchen gewinnen (2009). Grundschule, Magazin für Aus- und Weiterbildung, Gender, Heft 9, S. 28.
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