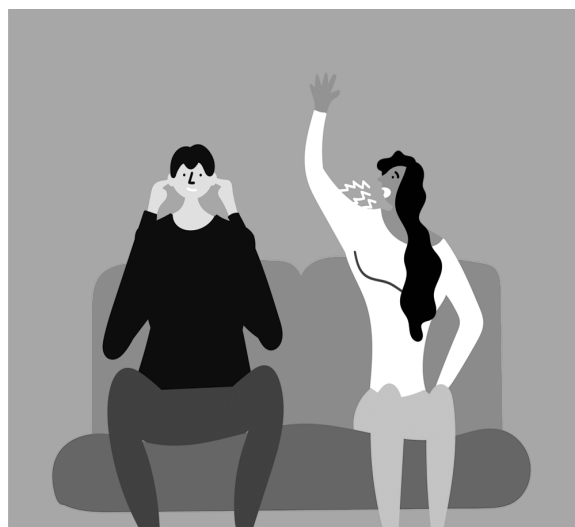


Men, you need to listen

To the Editor:

- 1 Read “Men, You Need to Listen” (letters, Feb. 16): Kimberly Probolus is to be credited for thoughtfully calling attention to men’s need to listen more carefully to women. However, psychological research offers a more nuanced view.
- 2 Differences between men and women in listening are apt to depend on a host of factors, including culture, race, the topic and the nature of the relationship between speaker and listener. There may be as many within-gender differences in listening as between-gender differences. It’s not clear that men listen less attentively to women than they do to other men, suggesting that the problem is broader than sexism; that is, guys just don’t listen to anyone but themselves!
- 3 Women can fail to listen as well, as when millions of women who voted for Donald Trump in 2016 failed to engage in what Dr. Probolus calls “feminist listening” by not heeding the advice of women who called attention to Mr. Trump’s abusive sexism.
- 4 Rather than 4, which tends to be disruptive, it would be more useful to suggest strategies by which all can learn to engage in more humane, gender-egalitarian listening behavior.



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