

GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SCIENCE

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/women-girls-science>



Activity 1 - Discussion

- Are there any subjects that you wish you had done better at when you were a student? Why?
- Which subjects do you think should be compulsory?
- Some people believe that you are either an 'Arts' person or a 'Science' person. Which subjects would you associate with those categories?

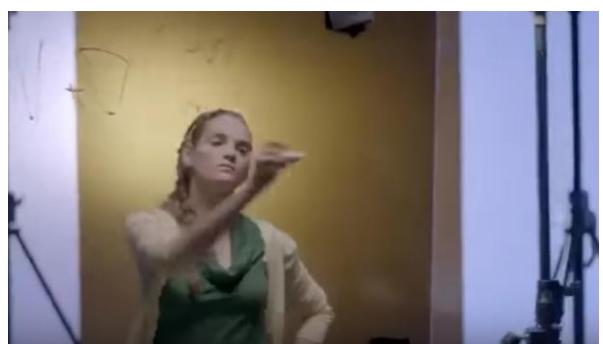
Activity 2 - video

Look at this list. Which of these things would you expect to see in a video promoting science to women and girls? Tick which you think you will see.

- a microscope
- high heeled shoes
- a man in a white coat
- a lipstick
- experiments
- women laughing
- sunglasses
- safety goggles
- science textbooks
- pictures of famous scientists
- a laboratory
- someone blowing a kiss
- statistics about women in science

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuJ1zp-QT8o>

This video was published by the European Commission for a campaign designed to attract more women to a career in science. The commission said that the video had to "speak their language to get their attention" and that it was intended to be "fun, catchy" and strike a chord with young people.



After watching the video, discuss these questions:

- What is your opinion of this video?
- How effective do you think it might be in encouraging girls and women to take up science? Why?
- What is the slogan? How effective is it?

READING

Who is Dr. Jessica Wade?

Dr. Jess Wade is a physicist working in the Blackett Laboratory at Imperial College in London. After finishing school, she went on to study Art and Design in London and then completed a Master of Science degree in Physics at Imperial college. She continued to study there, becoming a Doctor of Physics in 2016.



What does she research?

Dr Wade does research into plastic electronics and at the moment she is investigating LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes), which are lights used in things like mobile phone displays.

What else does she do?

She also works with various organisations to increase gender equality in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects. She has criticised some campaigns designed to encourage girls into science, because she says they are not scientific and their success cannot be measured, and some campaigns promote the idea of women only being interested in which chemicals are used to make lipstick.

How does she try to increase gender equality in STEM?

One of the approaches she has taken is to use Wikipedia in order to raise awareness of successful female academics. Only 17% of biographies on Wikipedia are about women, and Jess wants to try to increase the amount of information about women to promote female role models in the STEM sector. Last year she created over 450 Wikipedia biographies of women and other minorities.

What awards has she won?

Jess has won various awards for her contributions to science and her work on diversity and inclusion. In December 2018, She was included in the Journal Nature's *10 people who mattered in science*, and she also got an 'honourable mention' from Wikipedia's founder for her work writing about under-represented scientists and engineers on Wikipedia.