



## Sexist & Casual Sexism Scenarios

Discuss the below scenarios to see how each could have been prevented / resolved. Jot down some notes if you need to.

1. Leon and Amy have the same role in their office and they are working together to give a big presentation to their boss. When the boss walks in, he signals to Leon to begin the presentation. Amy and Leon have run through the presentation many times and she is supposed to start first, so she ignores the boss's gesture and begins talking. When the presentation is done, their boss has some feedback for them so asks Amy if she will grab some paper and jot down some notes. Amy reluctantly does this as the feedback will be helpful. The boss asks how they thought it went. Amy begins to share her thoughts on the date they collect. Leon talks over Amy to further her point. They both leave the room with positive feedback on their work, however Amy can't help but feel frustrated.

Why might she feel frustrated?

What could Amy have done to avoid feeling this way?

What could Leon have done to support his colleague?

Has their boss done this on purpose?

2. Jake is sitting in the park with a group of his male friends. One of them begins to talk about wanting to have rough, violent sex with a woman. He uses derogatory terms and calls women 'whores' and 'sluts.' A lone, female dog walker strolls past the group and Jake's friend wolf whistles at her and starts cat calling. Some of Jake's other friends join in but Jake doesn't. The lone dog walker looks scared and starts to jog away. The friends start booing her and say it's a compliment. All of Jake's friends laugh and continue to chat but Jake says nothing. He wasn't part of the problem, he did nothing wrong.

What could Jake have done differently?

Why might the lone, female dog walker have felt scared?

Could the girl have done/said anything?

3. The supermarket Gemma works in have announced they will be giving out free sanitary products to any woman who is struggling financially. They just have to ask at customer services. A man comes into the shop to ask Gemma what freebie they are giving out to men. Gemma explains that it isn't a freebie, it's a system in place to fight period poverty. The man starts chatting away about how he has to deal with his wife during her period, he should get something for free. Gemma tries to reason with the man and says he should be more understanding, but her boss comes over and politely asks the man to leave, explaining that some men can't be reasoned with and he isn't worth Gemma's time. Gemma is pleased to have support from her boss but is frustrated at the man's comments.

Why might Gemma feel annoyed?

She tried reasoning with the man, what more could she have done?

Did the boss do the right thing sending the man away?



Generation Feminist

Potential answers:

1. The boss assumed that because Leon was a man, he was leading the presentation. Amy was also asked to take notes because she is a woman. Amy is also annoyed that Leon felt he could talk over her because she is a woman. She doesn't believe he would do that to a man.

Amy could have spoken up and asked why Leon was asked to go first and why she was asked to write. She could also have called out Leon's interruptions however in a professional environment it's easy to see why she felt she couldn't. Leon could have been more considerate and offered to take notes or even ask the boss why he wasn't asked. Leon should also not have interrupted.

In a management role, the boss should address any unconscious bias they may have to avoid this happening again, as it may not have been intentional. If Amy were to tell the boss how she felt, this issue could be addressed.

2. Jake should call out the inappropriate behaviour and language his friend is using against women. The female dog walker felt scared and intimidated because she was alone and they should not be commenting on her body or harassing her. Just being silent and not contributing to wrong behaviour is not enough, males should be talking to their friends about what is inappropriate. The girl could have called them out on it but the situation could have escalated, so for her safety it was best to leave the situation.
3. Gemma has tried to call out a customer being sexist. She has done the right thing to not let the comment go unnoticed and to address the fact.