

True or false?

Mark these sentences true (T) or false (F):

1. Lisa Jones has been going to the Jacob's Well since she was 18.
2. Ms Jones made both the men and women customers feel uncomfortable.
3. Ms Jones does not sound like a woman.

Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs or groups:

1. Was the landlord right to ban Lisa Jones? Why? Why not?
2. If you were a regular customer, how would you have felt about Ms Jones being in the pub?
3. Do you think it makes any difference that Ms Jones has not had a sex change operation?

Language

The words below will help you in the discussion that follows. You can use them to describe how you might feel or react in a particular situation. Check any words you do not know in your dictionary.

<i>pleased</i>	<i>unconcerned</i>	<i>understanding</i>	<i>supportive</i>	<i>sympathetic</i>
<i>embarrassed</i>	<i>shocked</i>	<i>awkward</i>	<i>uncomfortable</i>	<i>upset</i>
<i>concerned</i>	<i>angry</i>	<i>intrigued</i>	<i>indignant</i>	<i>worried</i>

Discussion

Work in pairs. Discuss how you would feel and what you would do in the following situations. The words above may help you.

1. A close friend is about to get married. You have met their fiancé(e) and like them very much. A week before the wedding your friend tells you (s)he is actually marrying a transsexual.
(Would it make any difference if your friend is a man marrying a transsexual woman or a woman marrying a transsexual man?)
2. You are sitting in a bar at a table on your own. A woman comes and sits at the same table and you start chatting. After a while you notice that she has very big hands, rather a deep voice and obviously shaves.
3. One of your friends is having a party. She rings you up and tells you that all the men have to dress as women and all the women have to dress as men.
4. You have been out a few times with a member of the opposite sex. You have seen a couple of films together and been out for drinks a few times. You get on very well and find this person quite attractive. You go out for dinner together one evening and (s)he tells you that (s)he is transsexual.
5. You have offered an important job in your company to a well-qualified woman who performed very well at interview. She accepts the job and at the same time she says: "Perhaps I should tell you that until three years ago I was a man."
6. Your best friend suddenly tells you that (s)he is going to have a sex change operation. This is a complete surprise as your friend has never told you of any worries about gender identity.

Transsexuality, gender and sex: Although the terms are often considered interchangeable, *gender* and *sex* are very different things. *Sex* is physical; *gender* is a part of your identity. A *transsexual* is someone whose physical sex is in opposition to their gender identity so, for example, someone who has a male body can say "I feel I am a woman". A common treatment for this condition is to change the person's physical sex by an operation and hormone treatment.