

## The Language of Sex: The Heterosexual Questionnaire\*

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We can learn something about sexual activity and sexual orientation (homosexual and heterosexual) by looking into what we say about it. Rochlin applies the convention that we only question what we consider deviant to the issue of sexual orientation.

### *Reading Questions*

- I. Is homosexuality deviant, in need of explanation or questionable, in a way in which heterosexuality is not?
  - II. Answer some of the questions on the heterosexual questionnaire. (If you are not heterosexual, answer the questions on behalf of someone who is.)
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1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
  2. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?
  3. Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?
  4. Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
  5. If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?
  6. Do your parents know that you are straight? Do your friends and/or roommates know? How did they react?
  7. Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be who you are and keep it quiet?
  8. Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
  9. Why do heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
  10. A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexual. Do you consider it safe to expose children to heterosexual teachers?
  11. Just what do men and women *do* in bed together? How can they truly know how to please each other, being so anatomically different?
  12. With all the societal support marriage receives, the divorce rate is spiraling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
  13. Statistics show that lesbians have the lowest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Is it really safe for a woman to maintain a heterosexual lifestyle and run the risk of disease and pregnancy?
  14. How can you become a whole person if you limit yourself to compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality?
  15. Considering the menace of overpopulation, how could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual?
  16. Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective? Don't you feel that s/he might be inclined to influence you in the direction of her/his own leanings?
  17. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed that might enable you to change if you really want to. Have you considered trying aversion therapy?
  18. Would you want your child to be heterosexual, knowing the problems that s/he would face?

\* Adapted from:

*Gender Basics: Feminist Perspectives on Women and Men*. Edited by: Anne Minas. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing, ©1993.