12.1 **Sex and Gender** “Sex” refers to ________ or physiological differences between males and females, including both primary sex characteristics (the reproductive ____________) and secondary characteristics such as height and masculinity. “Gender” is a person’s ________ held internal perception of his or her gender. A person’s ________, as determined by his or her biology, does not always correspond with his or her ________. Characteristics of gender, on the other hand, may vary greatly between different societies. For example, in ________ culture, it is considered femininity (or a trait of the female gender) to wear a dress or skirt. What are some ________ where men wearing a skirt is “normal?” The dichotomous ________ of gender (the notion that someone is either male or female) is specific to certain cultures and is not totally _________.

**Sexual Orientation** A person’s sexual orientation is his or her physical, ________, emotional, and sexual attraction to a particular ________ (male or female). Sexual orientation is typically divided into ________ categories: heterosexuality, the attraction to individuals of the ________ sex; homosexuality, the attraction to _____________ of the same sex; bisexuality, the attraction to individuals of either sex; and _____________, no attraction to either sex. What are some other orientations? Alfred Kinsey was among the first to conceptualize sexuality as a ________ rather than a strict dichotomy of gay or straight. He created a ________ point rating scale that ranges from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual. There is no ________ consensus regarding the exact reasons why an individual holds a heterosexual, homosexual, or ________ orientation. Research has been conducted to study the possible ________, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, but there has been no ________ that links sexual orientation to one ________ factor. Biological determinism is the ________ that men and women behave differently due to inherent sex differences related to their biology; that our ________ is determined by biology. Heterosexism is discrimination for cisgendered persons against ________; homophobia is an ________ or irrational aversion to homosexuals.

**Gender Roles** The term gender role refers to society’s concept of how men and women are expected to ________ and how they should behave. These roles are based on ________, or standards, created by society. In U.S. culture, masculine roles are often associated with ________, aggression, and dominance, while feminine roles are often associated with ________, nurturing, and subordination. The learning of gender ________ starts with our socialization at birth and continues throughout life.

**Gender Identity** is a person’s ________ held internal perception of his or her gender. Individuals who identify with the role that is ________ from their biological sex are called transgender. Estimates of who is transgendered vary widely, however it is estimated that two to ________ percent of the U.S. population is transgender. Transgender individuals who attempt to alter their bodies through ________ interventions such as surgery and hormonal therapy—so that their ________ being is better aligned with gender identity—are called transsexuals. In the DSM-5, Gender Dysphoria is the term describing people whose gender at ________ is contrary to the one they identify with. Studies show that people who identify as transgender are ________ as likely to experience assault or discrimination as non-transgender individuals.

12.2 **Gender** The phrase “boys will be boys” is often used to ________ behavior such as pushing, shoving, or other forms of aggression from young boys. The phrase implies that such behavior is something that is part of a boy’s ________.

Socialization: Children learn at a young age that there are distinct ________ for boys and girls. Cross-cultural studies reveal that children are ________ of gender roles by age two or three. Does a person have to fit into a rigid ________ role, or can there be flexibility?
Social Stratification and ____________: Gender stereotypes form the basis of sexism. Sexism refers to prejudiced beliefs that ________ one sex over another. **Gender socialization** occurs through four major __________ of socialization: family, education, ________ groups, and mass media. Each agent can reinforce gender roles by creating and maintaining normative expectations for gender-specific __________. Exposure also occurs through secondary agents such as religion and the __________. The family is the first agent of socialization. There is considerable evidence that parents socialize sons and daughters ____________. It has been found that ________ are firmer in their expectations for gender conformity than are ____________, and their expectations are stronger for ________ than they are for daughters. Is there commonly a double standard between daughters and sons when it comes to dating practices, dress standards, and ________? Even in levels as low as ____________, schools can subtly convey messages indicating that girls or boys are less intelligent or less ____________ than the other sex. For example, teachers interrupted girls more often and gave boys more opportunities to expand on their ideas. Boys are also permitted a greater degree of freedom to ____________ rules or commit minor acts of deviance. However, females are more likely to stay in school, continue to ________ and earn more Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD’s than males. Mass media serves as another significant ________ of gender socialization. Of particular concern is the depiction of women in ways that are dehumanizing, especially in ________ videos and video games. There is a long ____________ of gender stratification in the United States. • Before 1840—Women were not allowed to own or control ____________ • Before 1920—Women were not permitted to ________ • Before 1963—Employers could ________ pay a woman less than a man for the same work!

12.3 Sex and Sexuality In the area of sexuality, sociologists focus their attention on sexual ________ and practices, not on physiology or anatomy. Sexuality is viewed as a person’s ____________ for sexual feelings. Studying sexual attitudes and practices is a particularly interesting field of sociology because sexual behavior is a cultural ____________. The incest taboo is present in every society, but even in this universal norm there is ____________ between societies. What is considered “__________” in terms of sexual behavior is based on the mores and ____________ of a society. Societies that value monogamy, for example, would likely oppose ____________ sex. Individuals are socialized to sexual attitudes by their family, education system, peers, media, and ____________. Historically, religion has been the ____________ influence on sexual mores in most societies.

Sexual Attitudes and Practices Sexuality around the World: A study of ________ countries reported that non-Western societies—like China, Iran, and India—valued ________ highly in a potential mate, while Western European countries—such as France, the Netherlands, and Sweden—placed ________ value on prior sexual experiences. Of industrialized nations, ________ is thought to be the most liberal when it comes to attitudes about sex, including sexual practices and sexual ____________.

Sexuality in the United States: The United States is rather ____________ when it comes to its citizens’ general attitudes about sex compared to some other industrialized nations. In an international survey, ________ percent of U.S. respondents stated that premarital sex is always wrong, while the average among the 24 countries surveyed was ________ percent. In the U.S., it is widely believed that ________ are more sexual than are ____________. In fact, there is a popular notion that men think about sex every seven seconds. Research, however, suggests that men think about sex an average of ________ times per day, compared to ________ times per day for women. Belief that men have—or have the right to—more sexual urges than women creates a ________ standard. Nearly all college men (98.9 percent) and women (99.2 percent) who participated in a 2002 ________ on sexual attitudes stated they wished to settle down with one mutually exclusive sexual ________ at some point in their lives, ideally within the next ________ years.
Sex Education: Unlike in ____________, sex education is not required in all public school curricula in the United States. The controversy is not really about whether sex education ____________ be taught in school (studies have shown that only seven percent of U.S. adults oppose sex education in schools); it is about the ____________ of sex education that should be taught. Much of the debate is over whether abstinence should be included or not. ____________ percent of parents believed schools should institute an abstinence-plus approach, which teaches children that ____________ is best but still gives information about protected sex.

**Theoretical Perspectives on Sex and Gender**

**Structural Functionalism:** When it comes to sexuality, functionalists stress the importance of ____________ sexual behavior to ensure marital cohesion and family _____________. Since functionalists identify the family ____________ as the most integral component in society, they focus on families and argue in favor of social arrangements that promote and ____________ family preservation. Functionalists such as Talcott Parsons have long maintained that the regulation of sexual activity is an important ____________ of the family. Social norms surrounding family life have, traditionally, encouraged sexual ____________ between married cisgendered parents and have discouraged activity ____________ of it (as in premarital and extramarital sex). Functionalists would say that gender ____________ were established well ____________ the pre-industrial era when men typically took care of responsibilities outside of the home, such as hunting, and women typically took care of the ____________ responsibilities in or around the home. These roles were considered ____________ because women were often limited by the physical restraints of pregnancy and nursing and unable to ____________ the home for long periods of time. Functionalists would say that the traditional family ____________ has functioned well for eons.

**Conflict Theory:** According to conflict theory, society is a struggle for dominance among social groups (like women versus men) that compete for ____________ resources. When sociologists examine gender from this perspective, ____________ are typically seen as the dominant group and ____________ as the subordinate group. According to conflict theory, social problems are created when dominant groups exploit or ____________ subordinate groups. What are some examples?

Feminist Theory is a type of conflict theory that examines inequalities in gender-related issues. It uses the ____________ approach to examine the maintenance of gender roles and inequalities. Radical feminism, in particular, considers the role of the family in perpetuating ____________ dominance. In patriarchal societies, men’s contributions are seen as more ____________ than those of women.

**Symbolic Interactionism:** Interactionists focus on the ____________ associated with sexuality and sexual orientation. Because the meanings attached to symbols are ____________ created and not natural, and fluid, not static, we act and react to symbols based on the current assigned _____________. The word gay, for example, once meant “carefree, or _____________,” but by the 1960s it carried the primary meaning of “homosexual.” When people perform ____________ or possess characteristics based on the gender role assigned to them, they are said to be doing _____________. This notion is based on the work of West and Zimmerman. Whether we are ____________ our masculinity or femininity, West and Zimmerman argue, we are always "doing gender." Before ____________, the APA was powerful in shaping social attitudes toward homosexuality by defining it as _____________. Today, the APA cites ____________ association between sexual orientation and psychopathology and sees homosexuality as a ____________ aspect of human sexuality.

**Queer Theory** is an interdisciplinary approach to sexuality studies that identifies Western society’s rigid ____________ of gender into male and female roles and questions the manner in which we have been taught to ____________ about sexual orientation. By calling their discipline “queer,” scholars
reject the effects of ____________; instead, they embraced the word "queer" and reclaim it for their own purposes.

**The future of Sex and Gender** What will our __________ society be like? Will current trends continue? Will there be a shift toward ______________ attitudes toward sex and gender, or will society become more ______________ in its outlook toward this important facet of life?