

Chapter 3: Social Structure

Case Study: [Six Degrees of Separation](#)

Section 1: [Building Blocks of Social Structure](#) (Monday)

Section 2: [Types of Social Interaction](#) (Tuesday)

Section 3: [Types of Societies](#) (Tuesday)

Section 4: [Groups Within Society](#) (Wednesday)

Section 5: [The Structure of Formal Organizations](#) (Thursday)

Do Now

What “social hats” do you wear throughout the course of your day, week, life?

Section 1:

3 Building Blocks of Social Structure

(Monday)

9/13/10

Objectives

SWBAT

Content

1. **(Identify)** Give an example of an ascribed status and an achieved status.
2. **(Define)** What is a master status?
3. **(Explain)** How are roles and statuses related?
4. **(Identify)** What is the situation called in which contradictory expectations arise from a single status held by an individual?
5. **(Categorize)** According to your web-diagram, which one of your statuses is your master status?
6. **(Think Deeper)** How might one a persons ascribe status become her/his master status?

Language

By **note taking** and **applying the concepts**

1. Do Now
2. Objectives
3. Building Blocks of Structure
4. Statuses
5. Exit Slip

3 Building Blocks of Social Structure

- **0.Social structure**: is the network of connected statuses and roles that guides human interaction.
- A **1.social status**: is a socially defined position in society
- A **2.role**: is the behavior expected with a particular status
- A **3.social institution**: is a system of statuses and roles organized to satisfy one or more of society's basic needs.

Building Blocks of Social Structure

Focus Questions

- What do sociologists mean by the term *status*?
- How are status and roles related?
- What are social institutions?



Where do you fit in society?

Your Turn

- Please create a web diagram with your name in the center and at least 5 of your **social statuses** around it.

Status

A **social structure** is a network of interrelated statuses and roles that guide human behavior. A **status** is a socially defined position, while a **role** is the behavior expected with a particular status.

Ascribed and Achieved Statuses

- **Ascribed status** is assigned according to qualities beyond a person's control, such as age.
- **Achieved status** is acquired through a person's direct efforts, such as education.

Master Status

- Most people have many statuses, but a **master status**: is the one that plays the greatest role in a person's life.
 - It can be either ascribed or achieved.

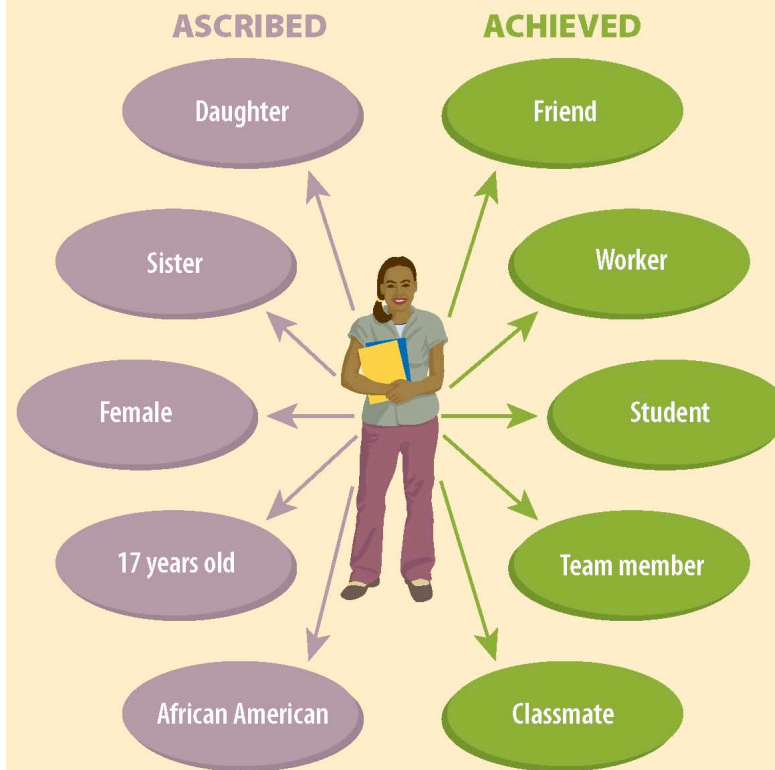
Where do you fit in society?

Your Turn

- Please create a web diagram with your name in the center and your **social statuses** around it.
- Now, please write “ascribed” or “achieved” next to each one of your statuses and write “master status” next to the status that plays the greatest role in your life

Social Statuses

Status describes an individual's position in a group or society. Since individuals belong to more than one group, they have many different statuses. Statuses can be ascribed—given to an individual regardless of his or her abilities—or achieved—gained through the individual's talent, effort, or accomplishments.



Understanding Check

Contrast

What is the difference between ascribed status and achieved status?

Answer: ascribed status:—assigned status according to qualities beyond a person's control;
achieved status:—acquired through own direct efforts

Roles

Role Expectations and Role Performance

- **Role performance**: is the actual behaviors of a person with a particular status. They may or may not be the expected behaviors.

Role Conflict, Role Strain, and Role Exit

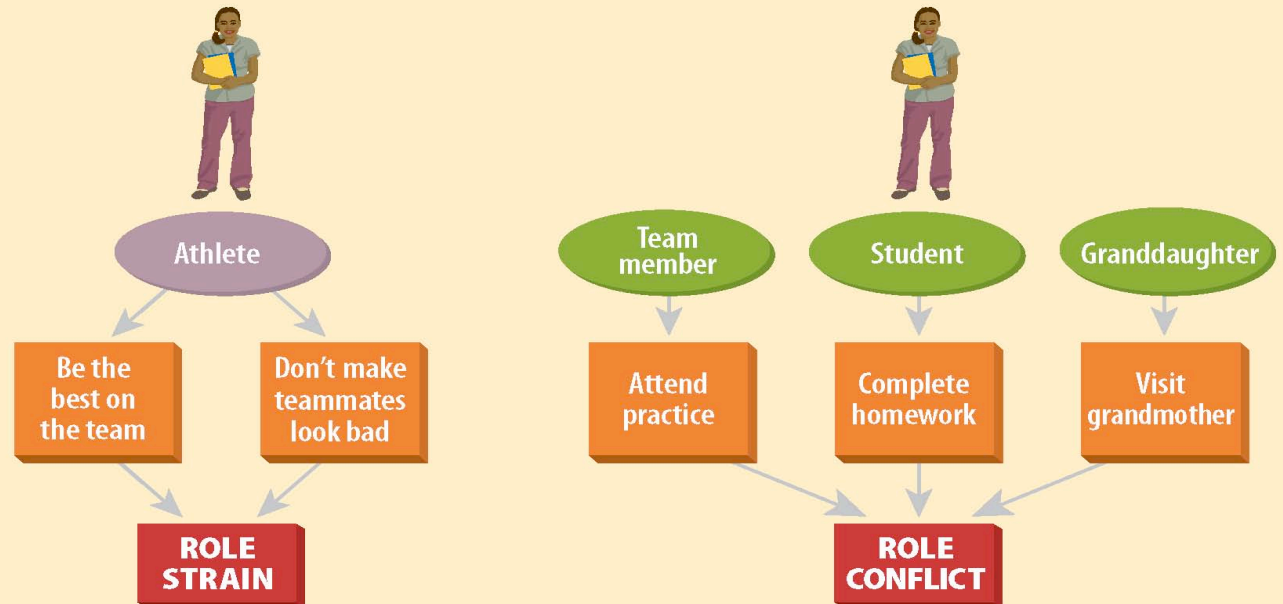
- A **role set** is the different roles associated with a particular status.
- **Role conflict** occurs when fulfilling the role expectations of one status interferes with a second status.
- **Role strain** occurs when a person has difficulty fulfilling the role of one status.
- **Role exit** is the process people go through to detach from a role that was previously central to their social identity.

Role Strain/Conflict

- **Role conflict** occurs when fulfilling the role expectations of one status interferes with a second status.
- **Role strain** occurs when a person has difficulty fulfilling the role of one status.
- A **role set** is the different roles associated with a particular status.

Role Strain and Role Conflict

Role strain arises when conflicting expectations are built into a single status. Role conflict occurs when conflicting expectations arise from two or more statuses that an individual occupies.



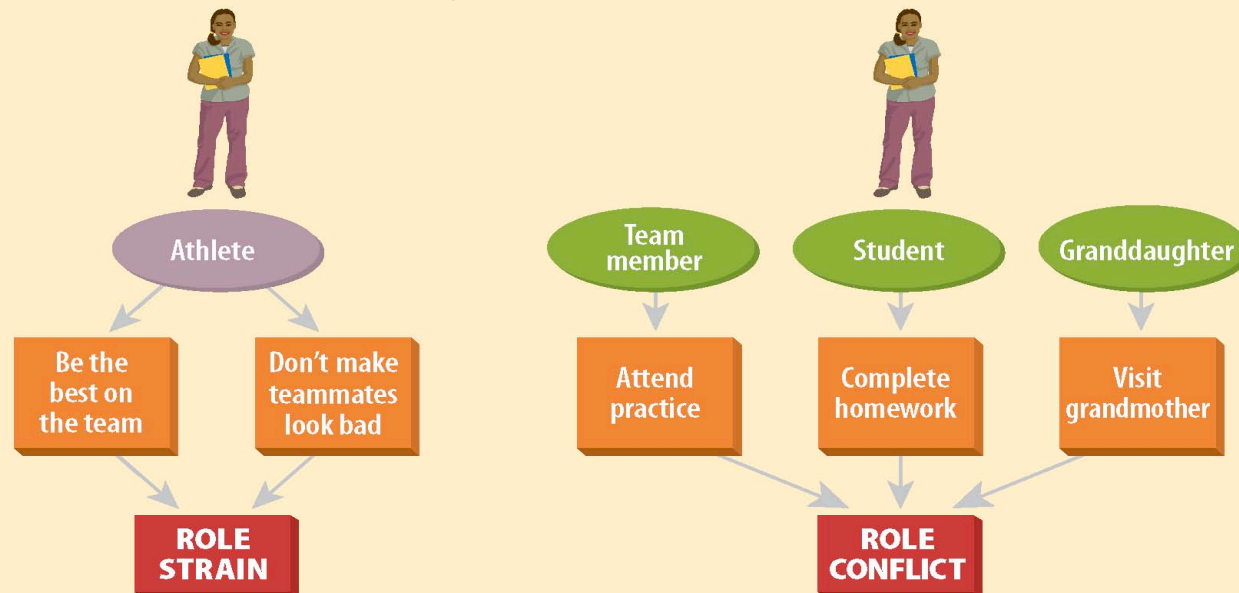
Reading Check

Identify Cause and Effect

Why do role conflict and role strain occur?

Role Strain and Role Conflict

Role strain arises when conflicting expectations are built into a single status. Role conflict occurs when conflicting expectations arise from two or more statuses that an individual occupies.



Answer: Contradictory expectations occur within and between role sets.

Social Institutions

- A **social institution**: a place where people are organized based on their statuses and roles to meet one or more of the basic needs of society.
- Examples of institutions:
 - The **(family institution)**, the most universal social institution **needs met**: takes responsibility for raising the young and teaching them accepted norms and values.
 - The **(economic institution) needs met**: organizes the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
 - The **(political institution) needs met**: governs the use and distribution of power in society.
 - The **(educational institution) needs met**: communication of values, patterns of behavior, and certain skills and knowledge.
 - The **(religious institution) needs met**: provides a shared, collective explanation of the meaning of life.