

## WIVES AND MAPS (3) IT'S MY HORMONES, DARLING

Perhaps hormones also explain why my wife does so many things \_\_\_\_\_ better than I do. She can keep at least five tasks on the go at \_\_\_\_\_ - helping a boy with his homework, running the bath, cooking, answering the telephone, writing thank-you letters etc. I can never concentrate on more than one thing at a \_\_\_\_\_. If the telephone rings for me \_\_\_\_\_ I am running the bath for the seven-year-old, I will forget all about the bath and let it overflow. From now \_\_\_\_\_, I may have an excuse: it's my hormones, darling.

My wife remembers important dates, too, which I never \_\_\_\_\_. She carries in her head the birthdays of \_\_\_\_\_ least 30 people on her side of the family and mine. Every year I say, about three weeks \_\_\_\_\_ late: "Oh Lord. I forgot all about my godson's birthday." And she will always say: "It's OK. I sent him a present and a card from you." The awful truth is that I am not much good, \_\_\_\_\_, at most of the things men are \_\_\_\_\_ to be good at, such \_\_\_\_\_ mending cars, understanding computers and fixing the plumbing.

But never mind. I have four sons, all rapidly approaching the age when they will be able to take \_\_\_\_\_ the man's jobs in the family. They can start right now, with the navigating.

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