

At last, there is a **reasonable** explanation for the **inability** of women to read maps: **according to** research it has **something to do with** the female hormone.

A couple years ago, I described my **wife's** navigation **skills**, which **caused** a certain **amount of hostility** in our household. But that's not going to **stop me from describing** them again.

Here is what happens **every time** we **find ourselves** in our car. **Suppose** we are **heading** south, **with** me **at the wheel** and she **reaches for** the map in the glove box.

It is a **pretty reasonable** question **if you ask me**, but it always **makes her sigh**, as if it is the stupidest **thing anybody could ask**.

She looks at her hands **to see** where her wedding ring **is**, because **this is the only way** she **can tell** her left **from** her right.

I **would love** to ask my wife: "**Why don't you** just **hand** the map to George, and let him **take over**?" But I **am afraid to do so**, because it would **lead to** a **furious argument**. "**Are you saying** a child can read a map better than **I can**?" **Obviously**, I don't **want that to happen**.

I have **lost count of the number of times** we **have gone through** this. But it **has become even** more **frustrating lately**, because we have two children **both of whom** read maps **much more competently** than their mother.

And so we go on, **constantly stopping** and turning, while two **brilliant** navigators sit **silently** in the back. But **now that** science has **come up with** an explanation **for** the **difficulties** women have with map-reading, I **might** finally find the **courage** to **speak out**.

You are **lousy at** map-reading **for** the same reason **that** I would **have a hard time breast-feeding**. Now **why don't you** just **hand** that map **over** to George?

Hormones **may** also explain why she is **much better at doing** certain things that I **fail at over and over again**.

She has no trouble **keeping** at least five tasks **running at once**. **Myself**, I **have never been able to** concentrate on more than one thing **at a time**. **From now on**, I **may have** an excuse.

The **awful** truth is that I am **not much good, either, at most of the things** men **are supposed to** be **good at, such as keeping** cars in good **condition** or **fixing** the **plumbing**.

But **never mind**. I have four sons, **all of whom** will soon **be able to take on** the man's jobs. **Actually**, it **might not be a bad idea** to start right now.