

7 ANNOYING

What annoys you about men?

Everything.

That's your first thought.

A few years ago, I rang up my daughter and for some insecure reason best known to me at the time, asked her to describe me in one word.

"Annoying" came back the reply within a millisecond.

There wasn't even a hint of irony in that answer. I was expecting maybe the word funny or kind, you know the usual loving thing you would get from your child especially as we have a wonderful relationship. Nope.

Annoying.

Determined to correct the huge injustice hurled upon me from the love of my life, I phoned my son up to ask the same question, feeling very confident that the man/boy bond would hold strong and righteousness would once again be mine.

"You're very wise" he confidently replied, but my 5 seconds of redemption disappeared quickly when he followed the pause with:

"Can I have £20?"

I have done hours of research online on this subject, and there have been hundreds of surveys carried out. Which proves the point immediately that men are annoying. I wanted though to see if there was a common pattern on the *"small"* things that get on your nerves, not for example, that he doesn't romance you enough or says he loves you enough. What I discovered wasn't just a pattern it was a mosaic of kaleidoscopic proportions.

Which got me thinking.

Neither sexes should actually be annoyed about anything. We all just need to communicate properly. If we did, a lot of the issues which come up can be resolved. If on the annual review I mentioned before, "annoying" things were truthfully answered, then Respect would replace Resentment.

A longer relationship would I am sure follow as a result.

Before we come to the summary though, I want to say right away that for most of the points, a man doesn't do those annoying things on purpose. There isn't an agenda to annoy the f**k out of you, it just comes as a natural by product, because of the fact, well, he is a man. Which makes it better or worse I guess whichever side of the fence you are on.

So, here goes, enjoy the next ten minutes of your life as I try, hopelessly and pitifully, to justify why men are like they are. In no particular order, according to the surveys carried out across the world, the things that annoy women about men are:

Misdirected wee when urinating

It's funny what you spend a Sunday afternoon doing sometimes. For at least an hour of my life, a precious hour I will never get back, I researched online why men sometimes miss the toilet when they pee. I wanted to know if there was some deep psychological reason for it and not simply because of the bleeding obvious.

That they are just downright lazy, which was the first thought that came into my mind (and yours I'm sure).

I can't deny it doesn't happen because it does. However, for your entertainment, and because it highlights another very important secret you should know about menkind, I will now put the case for the defence but bizarrely lose every man friend I currently have in doing so.

The modern-day toilet bowl, when it first came out in 1860, was wrongly designed. This is now a classic "bad workman" blames his tools moment, a thing men are very good at doing generally. Thomas Crapper (seriously) invented the modern-day toilet but there was a fundamental flaw in his logic. So pleased was he that he had solved the sewage problem of London and most of the western world, no care was taken to ensure it also solved the man splash problem of London and most of the western world.

The design was crap Mr Crapper and this is why.

The inner area of a typical toilet bowl is 10 inches wide at its maximum. Sometimes a man, in an attempt to silence the splashing noise of his urine stream, will aim for the area above the water line and the edge of the bowl, thus narrowing the "target" area available. The 10 inches is therefore too narrow a gap.

The toilet bowl should be twice as large.

Schoolboy error Mr Crapper.

If that wasn't reason enough to convince you of man's innocence in what is now commonly known as "weegate," then I can add this additional piece of evidence. When a man urinates, dizziness may occur. This is down to a neurological condition affecting his brain, apparently more common in a man than a woman. It will therefore naturally interfere with the steadiness of the aim.

Still not swayed, are you?

This may help. If a man's penis is soft there sometimes isn't enough of it to grab hold of to make a proper aim. As if having a small knob isn't difficult enough, he then can't wee correctly as a result. All of which he was born with, so, technically, not his fault at all.

Along the same lines, if a man's penis is erect at the time of urination there is a big problem.

It is bloody difficult to direct a hard penis downwards when it is in fact pointing upwards. It is the law of physics that even Einstein, Pythagoras and Archimedes couldn't solve.

This dilemma is heightened if his erect penis is large as there will be even more of it to point downwards. The only way to achieve anything like a successful wee in those circumstances therefore is to bend forward slightly, hold it with two hands, force it down and hope for a miracle.

There are 17m entries in google if you type in "*how to pee with an erection*". Thousands of pages of advice and analysis appear and there are even forums on it. It's a problem you never knew existed.

Imagine though, if you are in the middle of date night, candles lit, champagne chilled and he goes to the bathroom. Instead of lying there in sexual bliss, you should be in a growing state of panic at what is happening behind that bathroom door.

He can't wait by the toilet for his erection to go down as he is worried about it not going back up again and, of course, he might have swallowed a blue pill before sex which means it is never going down for hours. The advantage of Viagra for sexual performance becomes the disadvantage for toilet performance.

He starts to wee and hopes his "best friend" doesn't turn into an out of control garden sprinkler, spraying everything in sight as you are waiting in bed for your Romeo to return.

If that isn't bad enough, according to a survey in America, the carnage caused by weegate is only ever solved by 48% of men grabbing the towel off the rail and wiping the mess he has just left on the floor with it, not in the least bit bothered that you will shower with it shortly after.

That is serious breaking of man's secret code right there but in my survey, 78% said they had cleaned up the mess with a towel before and never told you about it.

In reality though, I'm afraid to say the misdirection is likely to happen because:

- He didn't turn the light on to look where he was going.
- He didn't hold his penis at all when he urinated.
- He had one hand on his knob and one on his phone, as he checked his messages whilst peeing.
- He aimed correctly but at the end just shook his penis "dry" and that caused all the mess.

So, now you know, and I bet you so wish you didn't.

Snoring

There he is, lying there at 1am, snoring like a freight train. Something he conveniently forgot to tell you about in his online dating profile and during your wonderful first date.

Suddenly there is a pause of hope as he turns over, but your naïve false sense of security doesn't last long. Very soon the hurricane arrives again, designed to wind you up into a frenzy of justifiable man hatred. I don't blame you. It is basically him just showing off that he is getting a lovely deep sleep and frankly you aren't.

This is serious stuff though. According to studies in the USA a third of all divorces are caused by snoring, with only affairs and financial issues in front of it.

12% of couples split because of snoring. That is some number.

It is, of course, worsened by the amount of alcohol consumption someone has, if they have a cold or it may be down to weight issues. All of which could be sorted but there is one thing that can't be. Men do have a narrower air passage compared to a lady, creating resistance in the gap that connects their nose and mouth to the lungs, causing the crescendo of sound that you hear.

Technically it is therefore God's fault. Again.

Men never discuss it between themselves. They never chat about the treatments available, compare techniques to stop it, or go over the latest herbal organic remedies from Holland and Barret's which may help them. In my private survey, 82% said they had never discussed snoring with a friend other than in a light-hearted way, if ever at all.

He is more likely to moan about how grumpy you were the day after your lost sleep, than to debate with his mates that he was the cause of it.

This isn't an issue for women as of course you purr like a little cute kitten, you don't snore.

How do you really stop it? I spent hours trying to work it out and I believe these are the options:

- a) Kick him in the bollocks and tell him to go sleep on the sofa.

There is no b or c or d.

Grooming

Which essentially means what happens to the hair and clippings he has left after he has "groomed". I can't gather the strength to remotely justify it, if your man leaves "his grooming" over the house, then put it all in a bag and sprinkle it over the steak he thinks you have lovingly cooked for him that night.

There is a wider issue here however, which will lead to a double entendre of annoyance. You need to take one step back I'm afraid. If there isn't an obvious rechargeable groomer in his bathroom cupboard then it's odds on his armpit hair has been trimmed with the kitchen scissors. It is then 50-50 if they have gone straight back into the draw after he has done so.

Better make sure you give those scissors a quick wipe the next time you cut up some chicken to eat.

Men don't want to cuddle after sex

Postcoital bliss is of course different for everyone and naturally at the start of the relationship, the bond you develop after sex by just lying there, talking, touching, cuddling as you drift off to sleep is truly one of the most special moments in your whole relationship.

Fast forward 2 years and that rarely happens anymore.

However, there is scientific evidence for man's after sex behaviour. When a woman orgasms she releases oxytocin, which is actually referred to as the "cuddle hormone". Oxytocin promotes a feeling of bonding and closeness with a partner and women apparently release more of it than men.

So, it's down to DNA and nothing whatsoever to do with the football about to start on Sky Sports 2.

Probably.....

Not replacing things which need replacing

When you say "*can you put the bins out boney*", in your logical mind that means carefully taking the bag out, tying it at the top before placing it in a tidy pile outside so the neighbours don't think you are a house full of students.

However, if you walk down a road the night before the dustmen come, you can spot the rubbish put out by men. They are all the bags put down at an angle, not on the road side, and if by some miracle he has actually put it into the wheelie bin, it will be crammed in at the top with half the contents of your private bathroom waste about to fall onto the grass for everyone to view.

It gets worse. Having carried out what he thinks is worthy of hero status in his mind, deserving of untold rewards for this herculean effort, it simply never crosses his mind to return to the kitchen and put a new bag into the bin.

Why?

The magic fairy will take care of that, that fairy always gets him out of all sorts of domestic tasks.

Only doing half a job and not finishing it.

Women are of course referring to the countless times men start a DIY project on the house, get bored when the shelves aren't miraculously up within 15 minutes, decide to leave the dust and chaos where it is and head off to start another project which he won't finish either.

However, there is another possible meaning to the survey answer, what you are really pissed off about.

The fact that during sex he buggers off once he has cum.

Xmas day

This glorious time of year isn't actually what annoys women about their man, but this day does highlight various things that certainly do.

The problem starts a few weeks before December 25th with the subject of who should decorate the tree. In a recent Christmas trends survey (yes there is one) 79% of women want to decorate the house for Xmas as their partners lack of "creative vision", and low attention span, annoys the hell out of them.

In man's defence, and I've said the same sort of thing before in this book, this isn't actually another example of his laziness (probably) it's the simple fact that if he does try and decorate anything around the house for the festive season, you will only re-do it. Don't say you wouldn't, because you would. And if I were you I would too.

The decoration of the tree to him consists of standing 8 metres back throwing decorative balls at it, so see how many would stay in one place in a competition that only he understands. There would be no planned colour coordination of the tinsel and lights, it would just be a fusion of poor taste that took 3 seconds of thought beforehand. And as for the fairy on top of the tree, every year he simply finds it amusing that the branch goes up her bottom.

Men may well help with the Xmas dinner, but women apparently find it annoying the way he rips open food packets without taking any time at all to cut the top as you would. But that is nothing compared to the moment you are all sat down at the table. He likes to carve the turkey and sit at the head of the table to confirm his "manliness" but you watch in horror as he then hacks at the meat like Henry VIII at one of his wedding banquets.

87% of women buy the general presents for everyone according to a survey last year in the UK and 58% don't like the presents given to them by their partner, often feeling totally underwhelmed at what comes out of the wrapping paper. Personally, I would like to say what's wrong with a key to bleed the radiators, an ironing board cover, a toilet seat, a can of deodorant and a large multipack of toilet roll, all of which were highlighted by the Daily Mail as among the things men had actually bought their partner for Xmas Day.

Men don't like the "shopping experience" as much as women. They define success as getting what they actually went there for, it's "in, then out" – a bit like their attitude to sex therefore. They can leave shopping to the last minute as they have a set plan and apparently 36% of all men buy their partners Xmas present on Xmas Eve. It isn't necessarily that they are unthoughtful with what they get you, it's just they think differently with what they believe is a good present. I know he hasn't got you the scented candles you wanted but think of it this way, if he had of and then lit them, he would either burn his face or the house down, it's a 50-50 chance.

73% of women fake their appreciation for his gift apparently, which ironically and coincidentally, is roughly the same number who have faked an orgasm according to Ann Summers. It's not surprising they have come up with that statistic.

No woman has ever had to fake anything with a vibrator.

Complaining how long it takes for a lady to get ready

Baldness is the case for the defence here. Run with me.

Otherwise known as androgenetic alopecia, it affects 70% of men and “only” 30% of women. It is linked to higher testosterone that shrinks hair follicles and makes it harder for them to live.

Mans pumped up hormones causes hair loss.

Serves him right you all think then don't you.

43% of men are very concerned about their loss of attractiveness through baldness.

Approximately 600,000 of them have had some sort of hair transplant treatment in the UK in 2022 but this was up 63% from 5 years before. It is a painful process lasting hours, where your head is numbed and hair from other parts of the body, mixed with scalp hair are blended together. This is done by picking the “good hair” out with small “tweezers” and then putting them into pre-drilled holes in your bald patches.

Pubic hair is a last resort but it can be used. What a thought.

So, what has this got to do with complaining about the time you take to get ready? Well, because he is likely to be bald in parts and therefore blow drying his hair is not on the agenda before going out, he simply cannot relate to the “getting ready” routine a lady does.

You can trust a bald man more though.

They have nothing to hide.

Not doing the housework generally

Nearly 50% of women have complained that their partner never does the housework. So that is 2 billion people on this planet who are annoyed. There is a flaw in the logic though if I can be brave enough with tongue firmly in my cheek to point out. 64% of women, according to a survey of 2,000 people in the USA, redo the housework after their partner has done it.

So, man's theory is this as he sits down with a can of lager on the sofa.

What's the point in starting it in the first place?

Wearing the same clothes again and again

This does actually help to explain one of the reasons he leaves a pile of dirty washing on the floor for you to navigate around each day.

A pile of clothes makes it easier for him to find what he wore the day before so he can put it back on again.

You naturally I'm sure think the reason he reuses clothes is because he is lazy. It once again lowers the decision making he has to do every day and that annoys you. Fair enough. However, I refer the case for the defense to some very very famous men.

Richard Branson wears the same pair of jeans each day and Mark Zuckerberg, CEO at Facebook, is famous for wearing the same hoodie. Even Einstein wore the same grey suit every day.

The moral of this story therefore, to justify our laziness, to make sense of the senseless and win the jury vote 12-0 is this:

Social media would never have arrived into our lives if Zuckerberg wore a new shirt each day and “ $E=Mc^2$ ” is not the theory of relativity, where energy is equal to mass times the speed of light squared, oh no, what it actually means is:

Everyday = My Clothes for the 2nd time.

Road rage

There you are taking a romantic early summers evening drive along a winding country road, on the way to the pub for a quiet drink, occasionally touching hands in between a gear change, Lionel Richie on the car stereo, when a Ford Escort overtakes you at high speed driven by an 18 year old who has just passed his test.

Being overtaken is an example of when men feel inadequate.

Don't laugh.

You are still laughing aren't you?

He has just been shown up in front of his woman. This unleashes a chemical reaction in him similar to that felt by the incredible hulk, where the mild-mannered David Banner, when angered, turns green and unleashes hell upon anyone he encounters as a result.

The problem, more often than not though, is that he can't catch the 18-year-old. To try and regain his “manliness” therefore he instead starts to tailgate the 75-year-old lady driving carefully in front of him, beeping his horn and swearing like a machine gun it is so rapid and repetitive. The horror show unfolding before your very eyes only ends when he has a chance to overtake, which he does with full bravado putting his middle finger up at *Driving Miss Daisy* as he does so.

To him he has defended his honour.

To you, he is a knob.

And frankly who can argue against that conclusion.

Road rage has though replaced another annoying thing about men. I'm not sure you should be thankful for it, but it has done none the less.

Before the invention of Google Maps and other similar apps, if a man sat in the passenger seat a woman would be subject to a relentless monologue on how she should take the A23 to the junction with the A27, turn right at the traffic lights which lead to the B342, and at the intersection between the A289 and the B241 she should turn left. That will keep going for ages, there was no off switch to man's mouth when it came to road directions.

Enter stage left Google.

Revenge for women came disguised as Google maps which has a lady's voice providing the directions, Karen Jacobsen. Therefore, minute after minute across the world, 365 days a year, a woman is now telling every man what route they should take, pointing out where he has gone wrong and is frankly, always right.

Like in normal life then.

To balance all this out a little, these are two examples according to surveys, the sublime to the ridiculous, of things which annoy men about women.

Asking which dress he prefers

When that question comes men freeze. This isn't a rabbit in a headlight moment, it is a rabbit on the Las Vegas strip being blinded by every light flashing from The Bellagio - it is that bad.

Why? You already know you look good in either, you don't need to ask.

It's a trap.

Telling her friends all the private stuff about you

This is actually a very serious point. A man's relationship with his friends is not the same. I guess you could say a woman's is more intimate, more personal. A woman is therefore more likely to share thoughts and feelings, leading to a more open emotional support network, a type of network which a man doesn't want or is simply reluctant to develop.

They do not operate their friendships at any emotional depth and therefore whilst he may bring up a certain issue, he won't go into any great detail about it.

Men cry on their own.