

## **The male brain, the female brain 2'00 (Abridged )**

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[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2014/03/140320\\_6min\\_male\\_female\\_brain.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2014/03/140320_6min_male_female_brain.shtml)

**Finn:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Finn and with me is Rob. Hello Rob.

**Rob:** Hi Finn.

**Finn:** Rob, I have a question for you. Are you good at reading maps?

**Rob:** Well, I have to say, I am, I really enjoy reading maps and I understand them well.

**Finn:** That's interesting. And today we're talking about new research into the differences between men's and women's brains, and looking at some vocabulary about brains and thinking. Now, this research says that men are better at some things, like reading maps.

**Rob:** Yes, well, I say I'm good at reading maps and even my wife would agree. She makes me do all the map reading in the car, really.

**Finn:** But women are better at other things – like remembering faces. That's according to this research. And before we look at it, I have a question about this incredible and mysterious thing – the human brain. Rob, you're a brainy – that is intelligent guy, but how much does the average human brain weigh? Is it: a) 1.4 kg b) 2.2 kg c) 3.6 kg, Rob?

**Rob:** I think: c) 3.6 kg.

**Finn:** OK we'll find out if you're right later on. Now this research was by a team from the University of Pennsylvania in the US. They looked at the brains of nearly 1,000 men and women and found they're 'wired differently'.

**Rob:** Yes – so they are connected in different ways.

**Finn:** Well, they say these differences might explain why men are better at learning and performing a single task, like cycling or navigating – that's reading maps and finding your way around. And it explains why women are often better at multi-tasking – that's doing several things at once and the research also showed that women are better at remembering words, faces and information about other people, and they also had longer attention spans – that means they could concentrate on a task for longer without becoming distracted. Rob? Rob? Are you there?

**Rob:** Oh sorry. I was miles away.