

Bring in the washing if it's raining

Think about it. Your wife's had to go and pick up one of the kids from a friend's house because he's sick, and had to stop off at the chemist on the way, and you've got friends coming for a barbeque in an hour. The clouds roll in and, inevitably, the rain comes. The kids' school uniforms are on the clothes line, and you know you'll all be out tomorrow at your dad's birthday party. The last thing your wife needs is to come home and find that the washing is dripping on the line, and you're watching TV, or sorting out your drill bits in the garage!

Even if the washing wasn't dry yet, it's going to be easier to get half-dry washing to dry than it is going to be to get rain-soaked, dripping washing to dry. So it will usually be a good bet to bring it in, even if you aren't sure.

For the sake of just two minutes of your time, your wife will – almost guaranteed – say "thank you" to you for bringing that washing in, probably followed by a smile. If you don't, the first thing she will say – again, almost guaranteed – when she walks in the door will be "you could have brought the washing in for me! Now I'll have to..."

It's all about thinking outside your own world and seeing what happens in someone else's. You might think it's no big deal to leave the washing out, it will dry tomorrow. But that's no good to your wife now. If your car was left out with the windows down and it started to rain you would like someone (probably your wife) to realise that and put your windows up while you were in the shower.

Those few minutes taken to bring the washing in will probably save your wife hours of fussing later, and your wife will appreciate you making the effort to make her life a little bit easier.