

Never ask for directions again

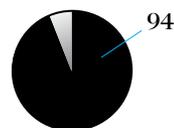
PUT AN END TO BEING LOST, LATE, OR EVEN (ACK!) INJURED WHILE NAVIGATING YOUR WORLD

U.S. AIRPORT MEN FIND MOST CONFUSING

Number of guys who've missed a flight because they couldn't find their gate in time

3%

Percentage of those men who didn't look at a map



Terminal maps may not show all the available walking paths. "Hub airports may have shortcuts that bypass main routes," says airport designer William Hooper. (His JetBlue terminal at JFK has them, mostly for people who want to avoid baggage claim on their way out.) There won't be signs, so ask a worker about any shortcuts to gate areas or exits.



PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO ARE TOO PROUD TO PULL OUT A MAP ON A CITY STREET



24% Number of men who navigate cities by landmarks, not street signs

Look at the buildings to navigate the streets. "Television satellite dishes point at geostationary satellites, which are orbiting at fixed aerial points above the equator," says Tristan Gooley, author of *The Natural Navigator*. "So in the Northern Hemisphere, they'll all be pointing south."

Number of guys who have nearly crashed their cars while using cellphone navigation

12%

Buy a car-window mount for your smartphone so you don't have to glance down while using it (GTMax holders, \$4 to \$9, amazon.com). Then, to avoid surprises with a new navigation system, enter your work address and test the route on your commute, says Shane McLaughlin, Ph.D., a researcher at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. You'll find out how much warning it gives you before turns, for example, and discover defaults (avoid tolls, use scenic routes, and so on) that you may want to disable.

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO CAN USE THE SUN TO ORIENT THEMSELVES

Number of men who feel confident using a compass

75%

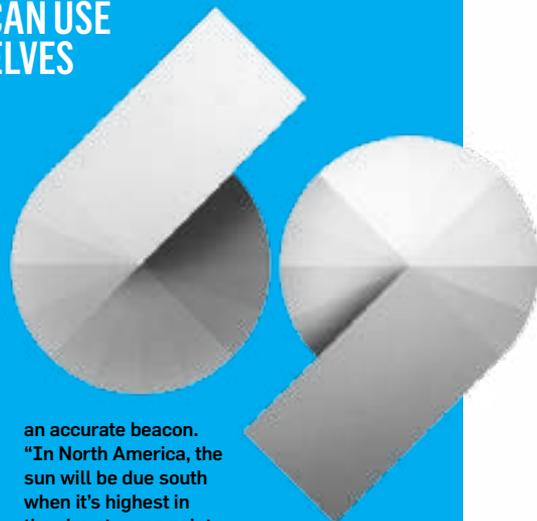
Number of stars used in celestial navigation

57

Percentage of men who say the North Star is the only one they can identify



Night owls without compasses can always navigate by the North Star, which marks true north. But finding your way in daylight can be trickier. The sun rises exactly in the east and sets exactly in the west only twice a year—the rest of the time it can be as much as 30 degrees to the north or south. So it's helpful, but not precise. At midday, though, the sun is always



an accurate beacon. "In North America, the sun will be due south when it's highest in the sky, at some point between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.," says Gooley.

PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO'VE BEEN LOST IN A THEME PARK

NINETEEN

Avoid crowds and you'll avoid getting lost. Arrive 30 minutes after the park opens, make a beeline to the back, and work your way to the front. You'll see about 60 percent fewer people, reports the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, and you'll have loads more fun.

Illustrations by MARIO HUGO