

WHO DOES WHAT IN YOUR HOME?

The peace and happiness of a home depends a good deal on how the husband and wife cooperate and assign the various duties. Here is an exercise that will enable you to take a good look at how this is done in your family.

	H	W	B	h	w
1. Showing affection	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Making decisions	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Settling disagreements	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Child care	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Child discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Giving comfort	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Planning time together	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Grocery shopping	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Cooking meals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Cleaning house	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. Doing laundry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. Paying bills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Inside repairs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. Outside repairs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. Yard work	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. Car servicing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. Managing money	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. Planning vacations	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. Planning celebrations	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20. Spiritual leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

There are five possible responses, husband always (H), husband sometimes (h), both together (B), wife always (W), and wife sometimes (w). Please complete by placing checks in the proper columns.

You will of course have to discuss the items together in order to decide in which column the checks should be placed. In some cases you may use both (h) and (w), meaning that you both sometimes perform the duty but not generally together.

When it is finished, you get an overall view of how all the duties are performed. A heavy concentration of checks in one column or another may suggest that someone is carrying an overload while someone else is getting off lightly! This might suggest a rearrangement of duties which would be more equitable.

The value of the exercise lies in the discussion it will get started between you, and any new decisions you may make in consequence.