

Relationships with coworkers are a very important part of work. You will likely spend a lot of time with coworkers, so knowing how to talk with them is important. Below are some questions and answers you may have about workplace relationships.

Can I be friends with my coworkers?



Yes, but this can come with challenges. Being friends with coworkers outside of work is ok, and often very common. However, you will need to remember that when you're at work, you need to be professional and limit personal conversations to certain times and places, like lunch breaks. Also, being friends with coworkers can be hard if that friendship ends. You will still need to be able to work together even if you're not friends anymore.

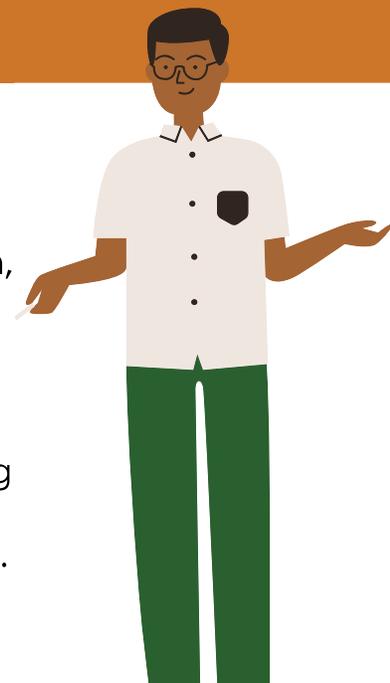
What can I talk about at work?

You can absolutely have "small talk" with coworkers. Good topics include the weather, weekend plans, job tasks, movies, music, sports, and other favorites. There are also inappropriate topics that should not be discussed at work, such as politics, religion, sexuality, and money. Also, using offensive language is not appropriate at work because that behavior is often thought of as unprofessional.

Can you date a coworker?

While work can be a great place to meet people, dating coworkers can lead to challenges. You will need to remember to be respectful at work, including limiting public displays of affection, such as kissing or hugging, and talking about personal or sexual topics. You will also need to think about how you will handle working with the other person if the relationship ends.

There are times when dating a coworker is not appropriate. Dating your boss or someone that you supervise is usually not allowed. Also, some companies may have rules that forbid office romances.



When and where can I talk with coworkers?



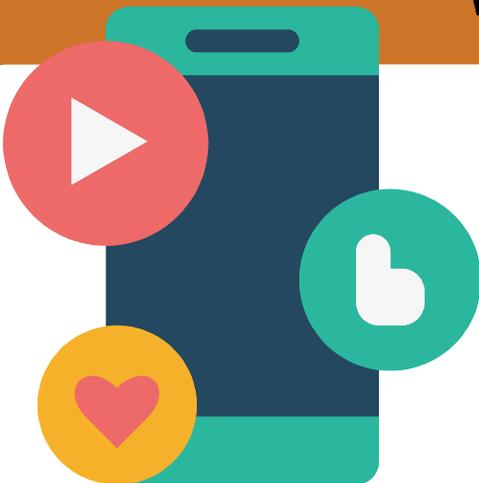
While chatting with coworkers is okay at work, it does depend on where and when it happens. Talking when you're supposed to be working, are at a meeting, or your boss is around may not be a good time. However, during breaks or lunchtime is okay. It's also okay to spend time with and talk to coworkers outside of work.

How do I become friends with coworkers?

You need to introduce yourself and start getting to know them. Ask questions and find common interests. One easy conversation starter is something you already have in common – the job! Just remember to limit personal conversations to times when it is okay at work, such as breaks or lunchtime.



What about social media?



It's okay to connect with coworkers on social media. However, be careful what you post! Remember that anything you post about your personal life on social media could be seen by your coworkers. Connecting with your boss on social media should be limited.