



20 Reasons Why My Office is THE OFFICE!

Do you work in an office? Do you sometimes feel you are working in an office just like the one in the show *The Office*? Do you feel a reality show should be filmed on your office? I certainly feel all those things at times! Here are 20 true absurd incidents from working at offices from me or stories I have heard from my co-workers...

1. **Set up a meeting? Sure, let me check my empty calendar!** -- A manager once asked me to set up a call with him. When I asked him his availability, he said he would check his calendar. I stood there while he clicked open his calendar on Microsoft Outlook. The calendar was completely empty for the week except for one meeting. He then proceeded to tell me his schedule permitted enough time for the call.
2. **Bored at the office** -- I was so bored at the office once that my co-worker and I Googled "Gerard Butler." We came across an article about Gerard Butler cracking walnuts with his butt. Obviously, that is far more entertaining than actually working. We read it. And then we read it twice. Thank goodness, we have Google.
3. **Awkward Interaction with Manager** -- My co-worker and I had coordinated phone interviews for our candidates. After finding out both candidates didn't get their calls at the scheduled times, we approached our manager to inform him. Since he is the point of contact with the client's hiring manager, we thought he could let the client know and reschedule the calls. Instead, he threw his hands into the air and stated: "Fantastic, wonderful job! What can I do?" My co-worker and me stared at him in disbelief.
4. **When Your Boss is on Vacation** -- I arrived a tad late to the office. I walked through the hallways to the break room to grab a cup of coffee, when I saw our senior manager standing in his socks munching on a bag of chips at 10 in the morning. My jaw dropped. Just a tad.

5. **Boss on Vacation...Far, Far Away** -- I enjoyed my boss being away so much that I couldn't remember how many days it had been since he had left. My co-workers and I would spend the days sitting at McDonald's for an hour eating chocolate fudge sundaes. Heaven!
6. **What's your name? Tom? Scott? Wait, What?!** -- I have a manager who has trouble remembering names and keeps mixing up people's names. If the guy's name is Tom, then he somehow magically becomes Henry. Once, my manager had sent an email to someone named Nasir and in his fit of absentmindedness called him Nazi instead. Until I quickly pointed out that is not his name.
7. **4 Coffees Pls! LOL** – My co-workers and I often go for coffee breaks around the same time each day. As we walked by, we bumped into the company president. Of course, wanting to earn some extra brownie points with management, I let him know we were heading to grab coffee from Starbucks and offered to bring some for him. He was thrilled and gave me a long list of orders. I mentally made a note, when he told me he would text me the orders to ensure I got the orders right. So there I am waiting as he slowly texted me the orders!
8. **Oh oops, was I supposed to work on that?** – My co-worker and me were assigned specific requirements to recruit candidates for. She is slightly forgetful and absent-minded, so the next morning, when we met for a status update, I realized she had been working on a completely different requirement and not the one we had discussed! Thank goodness, I caught this with her, otherwise it would've been even more embarrassing if our manager had found out!
9. **Dressing Up like Management for Halloween** – We have an interesting assortment of management members with equally noteworthy personalities, to put it lightly. It is a quiet atmosphere where everyone does their work and just goes home, not too much of company spirit is fostered and there are no holiday parties or annual company picnics. In typical fashion, no one was going to do anything for Halloween either. But suddenly, it dawns on my co-worker and I that we should dress up like management on Halloween at the office and see if anybody gets a hint. Kinda like how Jim dressed up like Dwight in *The Office*!
10. **Please flick off the lights!** – One of our business development guys sits across my office. I usually leave my door open. One day, I saw our company founder walk into his office. Our founder talks loudly and considering the proximity of my office to the business development guy, I could hear everything. Where my office is situated, not too many pass by, so the hallway's automatic lights would usually remain turned off. I heard our company founder telling the business development guy to walk by the hallways every twenty minutes so that the hallways don't remain dim and the automatic lights turn on. I

almost fell off my chair laughing! And the business development guy's expression was absolutely priceless!

11. **Convenient Timings...** -- I overheard one of our managers who is notorious for being lazy and a procrastinator, asking a co-worker what time would be best to leave the office and drive to the subway station to pick up his daughter. In his words: "What do you think of the traffic flow around 4, 4:05, 4:10, and 4:15 PM? What are the differences in traffic flow at those times? When do you think I should leave?"
12. **Caste System** – At our weekly meetings, there is a tug and pull war between the recruiters and management folks. Often, even if we are right, the opinion of a senior manager will carry more weight than ours. So my co-worker stated the hierarchy of our office is like the caste system! The founders are the high priest class, the senior management belong to the warrior class, and of course we recruiters belong to the untouchable caste!
13. **Nicknames** – My office is small, we have about fifteen people working out of our office. We have a crazy bunch of management and since it's a small office, we all know one another more intimately and obviously there is drama sometimes, too. Since it's easy to be overheard in the office, my co-worker and I have made up nicknames for everyone that fits their personalities like: Mouse, Crazy, Bullshitter, Lazy, etc.
14. **Being Sick is a National Holiday** – My co-worker hadn't filled out her timesheets correctly, so our manager told her to redo them. She said how she didn't want to use her remaining sick time and wished she could use the Holiday time instead. Until I said to her, "It's not a national holiday, when you become sick!"
15. **You know what? I'll Leave you for Gerard Butler** – My co-worker is happily married with two beautiful kids, but will still have an occasional argument with her husband. One morning, she told me she had gotten mad at her husband and during the middle of a full-blown argument, she threatened to leave him and sleep with Gerard Butler. I asked her what her husband's reaction was. She said he just stared at her in disbelief!
16. **Hungry for my Chair** – Our company's human resources started a monthly newsletter to send out to all the employees. In the newsletter, an interview was done on one of our company founders and styled after the 20/20 television interviews. This founder was known to be, well, a little arrogant. When asked what would be the traits he would like to see in the younger generation, he stated he would like to see the hunger in the younger generation to sit in his chair and that everyone has the potential to do it!
17. **Yes, HR, I have a Suggestion! How about a Sex Leave?!** -- One Monday morning, my co-worker stumbles into the office yawning. Obviously, it's a Monday morning and the day of our weekly meetings, so it's natural she would be tired. I joke with her if she was

doing something naughty over the weekend, when she replies, she wishes she had more intimate time with her husband as she doesn't have any time with a full-time job, chores, and kids. She then proceeds to say there should be sex leave along with sick leave!

18. **WTF, AGAIN?! He's Sleeping Again!** -- I walked over to a manager's office to discuss the project more in detail. The lights were dimmed and as I inched closer to his desk, I saw the faint trace of a head slouched to the side. I rushed in with my heart panicking, thinking whether something had happened as he was in his fifties. I called out his name and then his eyes fluttered open and he snorted. I realized then that he had been sleeping in his office! And here I was worried and ready to call 911!

19. **Another normal day. Just spotted my Manager at a Bus Stop** – Every Monday, after work, I drive to the grocery store to do my grocery shopping for the week. As I was returning and stopped at a red light, I spotted a tall man wearing sunglasses and holding a dark brown suitcase. I turned my eyes to the red light when my eyes flashed to the man again. I realized it was our company president standing! And where was he standing? In front of a bus stop that had slightly shady people waiting as well! I told my co-worker the news the next morning that I had spotted our company founder at a shady bus stop instead of in his luxurious car. She retorted, "Maybe he has an affair and he's meeting his mistress!" I replied that he was in his late fifties. She said, "So what? Look at Bill Clinton." Point taken.

20. **Human Recycle Bins** – Sometime in January, our company had their annual meeting with senior management and the managers flew in from our other offices located across the United States as well. Usually, we have only coffee, sugar, and the bare minimum stocked in our kitchen. Unlike other companies, we've never had lunch outings or bagels on Fridays. But on the day of the annual meeting, there were plenty of fruits, bagels, cream cheeses, and many more items in the kitchen. One of our managers tells my co-worker and I to help ourselves out and have some breakfast. We dig into the food when he says, "These are the leftovers, try to finish them, or they'll get wasted." He swooshes out of the kitchen and my co-worker and I stare at each other in disbelief. My co-worker exclaims, "It's as if we're recycle bins!"

www.PriyankaYadvendu.com