

# When your Teacher is the Employer

## TIPS FOR STUDENT ASSISTANTS

SHREYOSI ENDOW

One of the many perks of keeping up a good performance in class is that you could potentially land yourself the job of being your teacher's assistant at the end of the course. However, once you become your teacher's assistant, he or she is no longer just your teacher, but also your employer; and needless to say, there's a gulf between the two roles. Here are some things to look out for once you make that transition.

### Expect the unexpected

Teachers often put up a certain personality in order to have the attention of the whole classroom. However, they could very well be much different outside of the classroom, and that's okay. Don't be shocked if your jolly, good teacher turned out to be a rather stern employer or vice versa. A background check about him or her as an

employer, especially from the people who have worked as their assistants before, always comes handy.

### Do not question your teacher's methods

Once you become your teacher's assistant, you'll be getting an inside scoop on what happens with the copies, how the routines are set, most of which you'll be doing yourself. And chances are it was done the same way by another teaching assistant during your batch. Once this realization kicks in, it's possible that you feel as if your teacher does not pay much attention to his or her students, but think about it -- after taking classes from dawn to dusk of some thousand not-so-cooperative students, is it possible for a teacher to check every copy, set every routine, take care of every single detail that maybe someone like you could manage to do? He or she does have a personal life and you need

to consider it. If it still feels wrong, talk to your teacher and try and make it better.

### Be professional

With time, we often develop a friendly relationship with our teachers. He or she could very well be your go-to person for advice on any personal matter, but here's the rule of thumb: keep your professional life out of it. Say if you were to work in a bank, would you greet your employer with a high-five? No, right? The circumstances are no different when your teacher becomes your employer. Students usually take up these jobs at the very beginning of their careers, and getting accustomed to these little things can be difficult but honing these skills is mandatory. You might end up offending your employer without even wanting to. You don't want that, do you?

### Don't consider the job 'easy'

You'd honestly be fooling yourself if you

think checking copies is a matter of pretty, red tick marks. Trust me, I know. And that's not the whole scenario. You'll have to check copies, make schedules, set the question papers, help out the students when they face any problem -- you'll have a lot of tasks on your plate. And as in any other job, dedication and punctuality is vital towards each and every one of them.

Last but not the least -- don't slack off just because your teacher seems lenient. He or she will understand when you're making pointless excuses to skip work or have someone else do the work for you and keep in mind that there are plenty of people in line who are eligible to take your place. Being a teaching assistant is one of the best jobs you can have as a student. I myself had been a teaching assistant for some time, and the experience definitely counts when you are taking on bigger responsibilities in other aspects of life.

# YOGA LOG

## THE AWKWARD YOGI

**DAY 0:** There are days when we all take things that pop up on our newsfeed a little too seriously. Happens to the best of us. I stand amazed by how far a human body can distort itself without snapping. What appeals to me more is the caption "YOU CAN DO IT TOO!"

**DAY 1:** Being the recluse that I am, I shall not venture out to the great wide world just to learn yoga. Besides the sun and I aren't on the best of terms. So, I embark upon the vast adventure that is to learn yoga via Google generated websites. After shifting through endless streams of information, I get up, do the "over head reach" and "forward bend" (quite unintentionally) and call it a night.

**DAY 2:** I discover the internet videos on yoga. I stare blankly at the computer screen for hours that I had long lost track of. I decide to immediately buy yoga pants. The yoga mat just doesn't seem that important.

**DAY 3:** I put on yoga pants. It is EMPOWERING.

**DAY 4:** Succumbing to the overpowering guilt of doing everything but yoga in yoga pants, I decide to mimic the yogi on my computer screen. I listen to the apparition on the screen and dutifully oblige as she urges me to become the "downward facing dog" and exhale. Muffled laughter is not good for maintaining a stable breathing pattern.

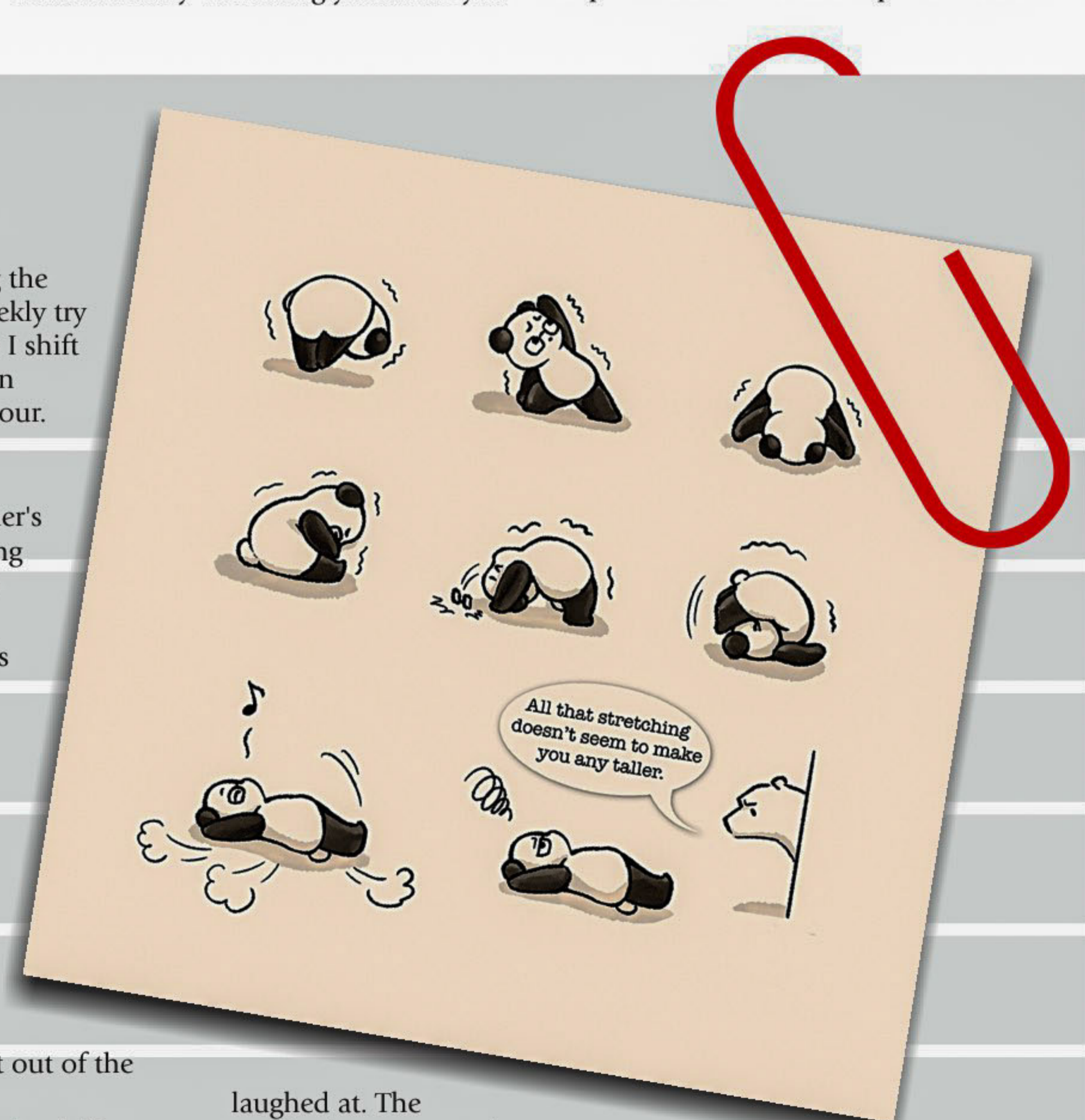
**DAY 5:** Second attempt at imitating the yogi. Serious this time around, I meekly try to copy the steps. My neck strains as I shift between poses and peek at the screen hoping it would validate my endeavour. Wait, is yoga supposed to be this stressful?

**DAY 6:** I follow through the beginner's yoga videos quite easily. Transitioning from the warrior to the pigeon is no big deal at all.

**DAY 7:** Musing on how difficult it is to maintain balance as a tree, I commend every child who gets the role of lead tree. Those kids must make their parents proud.

**DAY 8:** The first thing I do in the morning is to sink into the child's pose -- dropping back onto my heels, crunching my head down on my pillow and stretching my arms on the bed sheets. It should tell you a lot about how I feel about having to get out of the bed in the morning.

**DAY 9:** Guests come over and annoying kid circuits around the walls of my room and bounces on my bed. I ponder whether if doing the warrior would suffice to scare him off. I try and get



laughed at. The warrior in me sneers in response.

**DAY 10:** I reach a milestone as I accomplish the downward dog split. Yoga and I declare our relationship on Facebook.