



# Being the youngest at work

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A university student suffers through countless traumas on a daily basis. Heart-break, exams, being financially broke, having an existential crisis are just a few of the challenges we have to face.

Now, let's throw another one into the mix, just for the fun of it – working when you're young. It can have its own set of obstacles that we're forced to hop over in the marathon of life.

**YOU ARE NEVER TAKEN SERIOUSLY**  
 See, you're young, which means most of the times, your seniors have the authority to boss you around at the job that you were hired for, in the first place. Doesn't make sense, does it? Well, that's life.

Your opinions are rarely taken seriously and you can quite easily be told to quiet down and because of the vow of respect that we have to take, we have to do it.

**YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO**  
 Sometimes, because you're young, your employers tend to think you have nothing better to do than to run to work for another last minute job.

They forget that you may have a life and other commitments that you have to honour. You have your mid terms, a friend's birthday, you have the other job that you're working at, you have deadlines. They, either intentionally or unintentionally decide that your plans aren't worth anything. They assume that when you're not working for them, you do nothing. At least nothing important.

**WE'RE DOING YOU A FAVOUR**  
 Your employers and colleagues sometimes, act as though you're being granted a huge favour by them letting you do your job. Not only your job but also

running errands for them.

They sometimes act like you should be thankful that you are where you are and anyone would die to be in your place. The fact that your qualifications got you there is lost on many.

**SOMETIMES THEY CAN'T TRUST YOU WITH YOUR JOB**

When you do end up finally earning a position where you may be asked to handle something on your own, you end up receiving doubtful looks.

And through their skeptical squinting eyes, they'll 'check' with other employees who are also rather unsure of what you are capable of.

You're asked for constant updates and have to repeatedly reassure them that you can do your job.

**IT GETS BETTER**  
 Despite all that, if you're in a reasonably good environment, things change.

Your colleagues grow and they treat you as an equal. Not just that, you're the one they come to love the most. You become the little, precious one in the office and after all that hard work, you start to develop a good relationship with all of them.

If you're lucky enough to be in such an environment, count your lucky stars. Because you've struck gold. Not only do they love you, they help you get out of work and help you stay out of trouble.

So in the end, being the youngest at work is often not nice. But if you stick with it, it'll get better. You'll develop relationships that are worth keeping. If it doesn't, well then, it maybe time to ask yourself if it's worth it.

*Syeda Erum Noor is dangerously oblivious and has no sense of time. Send help at erum.noor1998@gmail.com*

# A SLACKER'S WAY OF SURVIVING EXAMS WEEK

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From one slacker to the rest of the world, here's how we do it.  
 P.S. It's harder than it looks.

**SCHEDULING EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE MINUTE**

Like most exam candidates, slackers too prefer setting up a proper study routine for the upcoming exams. From allocating fixed time periods for each topic or subject to short breaks in between studying, everything is scheduled down to the minute. The main difference between slackers and the others is that the latter actually adhere to their schedule while the former manage to get distracted, even by the most trivial matters.

**TAKING 'A BREAK' EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE**

Forcing yourself to consume more than what your mind can take at a time will do you no good. That's exactly why study breaks are necessary. A little bit of relaxation in between hours of studying will help your mind focus. Slackers, however, tend to make their breaks last longer than other students. Their study breaks are usually longer than their actual studying time. Sometimes, these breaks may start at the beginning of their academic life and continue till the time they graduate (if they graduate, that is).

**SEND NOTES**

Slackers do everything in class, apart from taking notes. It doesn't matter how important the lecture is, you can't make them scribble a few pages of notes, no matter

how hard you try. Even if they do, it's not going to be on a regular basis nor enough to get them through the course. Desperate times call for desperate measures as they reach out to their friends and classmates who are more regular in class, for their precious, lifesaving class notes.

**PONDERING OVER SUGGESTIONS**

Suggestions before the exam are always handy. They tend to make our lives easier when we are almost squashed into oblivion by the exam pressure. Suggestions, however, are not always helpful, which is why we are always told not to rely on them alone. But being out of touch with the book, slackers don't really have a choice. The exam syllabus is usually huge and covering the entire thing before the exam is next to impossible. Thus, they put their faith on suggestions, hoping to make the most out of them.

**SEEKING SOCIAL VALIDATION**

Sharing memes on social media as a mechanism for coping with the exam stress has become a norm. Slackers are no different to this practice. If anything, their meme-game is probably on another level compared to that of the rest. Only if they had spent their time focusing on academics instead of posting memes, things might have turned out different.

There is nothing wrong with being a slacker, as long as things get done eventually. The purpose of this write-up is not to offend this wonderful community, but to show how hard procrastinating can really be and where it can lead you to.

