



Bad Boss? How to Deal

In theory, I had a great job. I was helping people, had great pay, and amazing benefits. Everything was great, except for one thing: my boss! He made a would-have-been dream job quickly turn into a nightmare.

Unfortunately, like me, many working professionals have the misfortune of having a bad boss. While you may never be able to change your boss, there are some things that you can do to make your work situation a little better.

Difference of Personalities

Sometimes people think that their boss is mean, or doesn't like them, but in reality it may just be a difference of personalities. I used to work for a supervisor (not the previously mentioned one) who would never say hi to me, or make eye contact with me when we'd pass in the halls. Initially, I was very offended. But, the more I worked with him, the more I learned that that was just his personality, and that I shouldn't take it personally. The quicker I learned to let things like that slide, the sooner I liked my **new job**.

Communication is Key

Maybe the problem isn't your boss, but a lack of communication. Meet with your boss and ask for regular progress reports, as well as feedback, and direction on projects. This not only helps to cultivate a working relationship, but also shows him/her that you want to succeed at your job.

Go Over their Head

If you've tried dealing with your "boss problems" directly, and nothing seems to work, or if your boss is treating you out-right poorly or inappropriately, it may be time to his/her supervisor or **human resources**. (Just know that once you take your complaints to the next level, there's a good chance that your boss will be made aware of it.)

When you meet, calmly describe your boss' actions and how it is impacting your job performance. Also, be prepared to provide documentation of the dates, time, and circumstances.

If All Else Fails



As a last resort, ask to transfer to a different department. This shows that you enjoy your company, just not your employer. If this is not an option, then perhaps it is time to consider looking for a new job altogether. But, before you leave, be sure to meet with HR and let them know why you are leaving so that they can document it. Just remember in this economy, jobs are difficult to find, so if you love everything else about your job, just not your boss, it may be worth sticking it out.