

Members share tips on making friends at a new job

Last month we asked how you would handle the following situation: I just started at my new job. I'm a bit shy and I'm hoping to find ways to make friends and show my coworkers that I'm hardworking, sincere and fun.

We received lots of great answers and good advice. Here are just a few:



- Always ask if you can help coworkers do anything before you go home or before you go to lunch.
- Get involved in extra circular activities.
- Nothing breaks the ice better than enjoying food. You can bring donuts or if you work with several employees bring a jar of penny candies. I think this is always appreciated and it gives others a look at you as a kind and generous person.
- Join a committee you might have an interest in. Look for opportunities to help in areas not your own. Be friendly. Attend all meetings and functions.
- Be on time to work, be dependable. Do the best work you can. Smile to and say hello to your co-workers. Try to be approachable, join in conversation if given an opportunity. Keep your work space clean and inviting. A few pictures or personal items are a good way for others to get to know you a little bit.
- Just be you, I say hi to everyone I come across. I offer to help out where I can. Share some fun things about yourself with some of your co-workers.
- Until I get comfortable, I am shy as well. Initially I would suggest that you ask if you can join co-workers to lunch. Or maybe you can ask for local restaurant/coffee shop suggestions. Those are easy ice breakers. Once you join for lunch and engage in conversation, they'll see how fun and sincere you are. As far as your work ethic goes, if you're a hard worker, that will show itself sooner than later.
- Start by smiling, and saying hi. Listen, to hear what people's interests are, and ask questions. Listen to what and who your job is about, and absorb everything you are told. Don't compare this job to your previous job, even though you will be tempted to, remember you took a new position for a reason. Work hard, people will notice what you do with your time. Be pleasant, and have a sense of humor. Your efforts and interest in other people and work will be rewarded with good work relationships and will earn you new friendships.
- If you have pictures display on desk. Your coworkers will see them and maybe comment. You can ask for suggestions for places to eat lunch in the area or who will delivers food to you site. I have left a book on my desk and the topic has started conversations with others.
- Be yourself, be positive and don't overdo it, be patient; friends will come along the way, keep in mind that sometimes it takes time to make friends in a new job , or even if you have been there for a long time.
- If there is a centralized lunch room, bring your lunch and join in. Listen to the conversation and join in or add comments when appropriate, but don't feel that you need to monopolize the conversation. Ask a co-worker out for coffee after work to get to know them better.

Thank you for all your responses. We look forward to hearing from you in next year's surveys!

*Remember: the suggestions above are voluntary ideas from our members. They do not represent professional advice.