

# Five ways to help your team have more fun at work

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It's true, work is work and fun is fun. Granted, not all activities are suitable for all environments. For instance, window washers would be well-advised to whistle rather than dance. Unless, of course, they're safely on the ground. But if you think about it, you can probably find ways to add a little fun to your team's day.

Here are some ideas that can help boost your team's morale:

- 1. Get to know each other.** Using a simple ice-breaker such as, "What was your first job?" can help your team learn more about each other's interests and skills. Try asking a different question before each team meeting and budget enough time for everyone to answer.
- 2. Host regular potluck lunches.** They could be once a week or once a month. But sharing meals can bring people closer together. It gives them time to bond and even talk out work-related issues together. Be sure to ask if anyone on your team has any special dietary restrictions. And you never know; the next great time-saving idea could come from a casual comment over a cronut®.

**3. Break up into smaller teams to solve a challenge.** You can see who can think of the most new ideas to grow your business. Or look for the best idea to overcome an obstacle you've been facing. Working on problems together can build professional relationships and yield new solutions to try.

**4. Share some music.** If your workspace allows for a few quiet tunes now and then, it can help bolster the team's mood. See if there's a radio station or type of music everyone likes.

**5. Make every day employee appreciation day.** Who doesn't love a good employee appreciation day? Games! Carnival rides! The CEO scooping mashed potatoes in the lunch line! But it doesn't have to be just once a year. And it doesn't have to be elaborate or pricey. Encourage your team to encourage each other. And err on the side of being too generous with your own praise, too.

Some managers may feel that fun gets in the way of work getting done. But fun in the workplace is about enjoying the company of your team and sharing goals. Fun can increase productivity, morale and employee retention. And it can help the day go by faster, too.