

Out With the Old, In With the Newbie: Working With Younger Bosses in 2015

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You may not “get” your new boss, but you’ll have to get used to their love of text messaging, and get over that their college graduation year is the same as one of your kids’! More than a third of U.S. workers already report to someone younger, and by 2015, millennials will outnumber baby boomers in the workforce. And while most of these May-December relationships get along, they can struggle with misconceptions that young bosses lack experience, and that mature staffers prefer typewriters to tablets.

So how can you jive with a boss who was born during your corporate career?

- **Become tech savvy.** Find out what “the cloud” is and how to use it. Know your way around social media sites. Embrace instant messaging and text messaging, because your boss will contact you this way. A demonstrated willingness to learn is always a welcome trait.
- **Find your boss’ strengths.** Older or younger, birthdates don’t determine employment value. Senior management saw something in your new boss—exceptional leadership qualities, brave new ideas—so trust that decision and do your best to see the strengths they saw.
- **Be yourself.** Squeezing into skinny jeans or posting selfies of yourself and your coworkers won’t help you relate to your younger boss. You’ll find plenty of common ground through mutual interests, sense of humor, or shared goals. So instead of impressing with a hip new style, impress with your attitude and performance!

A younger boss can open your mind to new ideas in 2015, and you may find you’re professionally better for it! Just don’t say, “When I was your age . . .” unless you want to be reminded of other things your boss thinks happened back then, like the invention of fire.

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