

A to Z English

A to Z Quick Chat 39: Good and Bad Bosses

Website: <http://atozenenglishpodcast.com/episodes>

In this episode we discuss good and bad bosses. They can make such a difference to your work!

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had a bad boss?
2. If so, why was he or she bad?
3. What is the worst part about working for a bad boss?

If you could take a minute and complete a short survey about the podcast, we would be very appreciative. You can find the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/HHNnnqU6U8W3DodK8>

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

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Intro/Outro Music: Eaters, song Dig Your Own Soul (eatersmusic2000)

<https://freemusicarchive.org/music/eaters/an-evening-with-tuck-pendleton/dig-your-own-soul/>

Full Transcript

00:00:00 Kevin

Welcome to an A-Z English quick chat. Today we're going to surprise each other with a topic and see where the conversation goes.

00:00:06 Kevin

Remember to check our website for our transcript to follow along as well as links to our social media so you can join.

00:00:12 Kevin

The conversation as well.

00:00:13 Kevin

So what did you want?

00:00:14 Kevin

To talk about this time guys.

00:00:17 Jack

So till you want to handle this one.

00:00:20 Xochitl

Are we going to talk about the worst bosses that we've ever had?

00:00:23 Jack

The worst bosses we've ever had.

00:00:27 Xochitl

Yeah, this should be fun.

00:00:28 Xochitl

I have probably 2 that are up there.

00:00:31 Xochitl

The one is when I was in Korea my boss was really crazy.

00:00:36 Xochitl

I might have to save the.

00:00:38 Xochitl

The slowly dying animals story for another time that's from.

00:00:43 Kevin

That well, now we're curious.

00:00:46 Xochitl

Yes, you'll have to tune in next time.

00:00:48 Jack

Is there alert?

00:00:49 Xochitl

For a special.

00:00:50 Xochitl

On that on the worst thing that ever happened to me in Korea but but for today I guess.

00:00:58 Xochitl

My worst thoughts I've ever had was the boss I had now.

00:01:02 Xochitl

Which I'm.

00:01:03 Xochitl

Cleaning the job.

00:01:04Xochitl

So I'm I'm working at an art gallery.

00:01:09Xochitl

And there's just a lot of sexism in Mexico.

00:01:11Xochitl

I'm sure that any of our listeners who are Mexican and women understand.

00:01:16Xochitl

What I'm talking about.

00:01:17Xochitl

UM, and it's something that you kind of have to get used to, and I'm used to it in certain areas, but like the workplace is really, it gets crazy.

00:01:29Xochitl

And today.

00:01:32Xochitl

Sorry, I'm trying to speak slowly.

00:01:34Xochitl

I was gonna say essentially my boss basically just said that.

00:01:39Xochitl

He just started.

00:01:40Xochitl

He just started.

00:01:41Xochitl

This was treated by nothing by the way, he just I guess he had a bad day or something and he came in and just started basically asking if I'd ever had a job before.

00:01:51Xochitl

If I'd ever done anything.

00:01:52Kevin

Just not trusting you and just putting.

00:01:55Kevin

You down, kind of.

00:01:55Xochitl

Yeah, I wasn't even.

00:01:56Xochitl

I wasn't like I wasn't doing any.

00:01:58Xochitl

Like well, I.

00:01:59Xochitl

Was working obviously, but I wasn't like doing something wrong.

00:02:02 Xochitl

Yeah, but he was having had a job before.

00:02:04 Xochitl

I like I he's basically saying I was like we're supposed and then he said.

00:02:12 Xochitl

Like he just made a lot of comments about how like ohh well, I guess since you're pretty like you don't really need a job and I don't like you probably did.

00:02:22 Xochitl

It was just really weird.

00:02:23 Xochitl

And then he said like it was the.

00:02:25 Xochitl

Other thing he said.

00:02:28 Xochitl

The toast I forgot I like blocked out like there was such a mess today but he said, Umm?

00:02:36 Kevin

OK.

00:02:37 Xochitl

Oh well, since I sell art at the art gallery, he's like, well, you should.

00:02:41 Xochitl

Just like if you're not smart enough to do the job, you should just use your pretty face to start.

00:02:48 Xochitl

And I was.

00:02:48 Xochitl

Like really pissed really angry.

00:02:52 Xochitl

Obviously these are things that we just like not fly in America and.

00:02:56 Jack

See Kevin and.

00:02:56 발표자

Jack's face with.

00:02:57 Xochitl

Like Oh yeah, but this is.

00:03:00 Xochitl

Really not uncommon if you're working for a man in Mexico, so.

00:03:06 Xochitl

I was like I really wanted to tell us and I I did sort of but I I held back my most vicious kind of insults cause a friend got me the.

00:03:14 Xochitl

Job so I didn't want to like, you know.

00:03:17 Kevin

Yeah you wanna try but but I mean that's that's the amazing thing about bosses.

00:03:19 Xochitl

I'm on bad times with the boss.

00:03:23 Kevin

Is like working in a gallery that sounds like it could be a pretty cool job, right?

00:03:27 Xochitl

It is cool, yeah.

00:03:28 Kevin

Yeah, you're selling arts.

00:03:30 Kevin

That's great.

00:03:30 Kevin

You get to talk.

00:03:31 Kevin

About art with people and.

00:03:32 Kevin

And share that.

00:03:33 Kevin

But by having a a terrible boss it takes up cool job.

00:03:38 Kevin

And just makes it terrible and and the same thing.

00:03:42 Kevin

And a boss can be so important.

00:03:44 Kevin

I remember my very first job ever.

00:03:46 Kevin

I was working just at a fast food restaurant when I was a teenager back in America, just selling chicken.

00:03:52 Kevin

Which is not.

00:03:52 Kevin

A good job, right?

00:03:54 Kevin

It's a.

00:03:54 Kevin

Fast food restaurant.

00:03:55 Kevin

It's not a good.

00:03:55 Kevin

Job, but I had a great boss.

00:03:58 Kevin

There actually he would, you know, trust me to do things in the.

00:04:02 Kevin

So he would call me to come in like when someone you know was sick for the day and I would go in.

00:04:09 Kevin

But if I was sick, it was never a problem.

00:04:11 Kevin

He was always very cool and so it turned.

00:04:13 Kevin

This terrible you.

00:04:14 Kevin

Know stupid fast food job into a job that actually was quite good and so a good boss can make a bad job.

00:04:23 Kevin

3rd and.

00:04:24 Kevin

Terrible boss can make a great job.

00:04:26 Kevin

Terrible, very easily.

00:04:28 Xochitl

Yes, I really, really agree with that.

00:04:30 Xochitl

I have to say I don't think I've ever had a.

00:04:32 Xochitl

Boss that I really loved.

00:04:35 Xochitl

I don't know.

00:04:35 Xochitl

I used to think they didn't ever.

00:04:37 Xochitl

I didn't have a problem.

00:04:38 Xochitl

With authority and.

00:04:39 Xochitl

When I moved to Korea, I was like I think they.

00:04:41 Xochitl

Do maybe not.

00:04:43 Kevin

Or in Korea authority is is very.

00:04:46 Kevin

I mean, there's a.

00:04:46 Kevin

Lot of it here you follow what the.

00:04:48 Kevin

Bosses are telling you a lot more.

00:04:49 Xochitl

Yeah, you can't say any, you just have to say yes and.

00:04:53 Kevin

Yeah, in the states it's OK.

00:04:55 Kevin

I mean you want to be nice, but it's OK to.

00:04:57 Kevin

Disagree with your boss.

00:05:00 Xochitl

In Korea, no.

00:05:02 Xochitl

Jack, what about you?

00:05:03 Xochitl

What's your worst boss story?

00:05:05 Jack

Yeah, you know, I've I've been pretty lucky I've had some pretty good bosses over my over my career, but I did.

00:05:12 Jack

I was an intern in Los Angeles when I was in college and an intern is another word for slavery.

00:05:23 Jack

I guess I don't know.

00:05:24 Jack

Where you work for free, you work for no pay.

00:05:25 Jack

Literally like 2.

00:05:32 Jack

You the only benefit is you know you the luxury of getting to.

00:05:32 Xochitl

For experience.

00:05:37 Jack

I don't know.

00:05:37 Jack

Go to an office and hang out with people and do work for them and not make any money but.

00:05:43 Kevin

Unpaid internships are definitely need to disappear.

00:05:47 Kevin

Need to go down.

00:05:47 Jack

Yeah, this was not a paid internship.

00:05:49 Jack

This this is 20 years ago.

00:05:51 Jack

This is I'm I'm, uh, here's an idiom for all our our listeners out there.

00:05:57 Jack

Jack is kind of long in the tooth, if that makes sense long in the tooth is another word for old, so I've been around the block a few times.

00:06:09 Jack

But uh, in this particular uhm production company, I was obvious, uh, I didn't tell you guys this, but I I wanted to be a filmmaker.

00:06:19 Jack

And so I was working for a production company and I was working for free because it's a way to get introduced to people and maybe get a real job.

00:06:29 Jack

After and the guy that owned the production company was a big shot dude.

00:06:36 Jack

I mean he produced.

00:06:39 Jack

The Dark Knight rises the I mean big big big movies.

00:06:44 Jack

He was a a Hollywood mogul type player guy and they just stuck me in this in this office and they didn't tell me what to do.

00:06:56 Jack

They didn't tell me how to do anything and so.

00:06:59Jack

People would call and they would say you know something like.

00:07:02Jack

I'm a composer and I would like to write some music for you.

00:07:08Jack

Your you know your next movie and I didn't know.

00:07:12Jack

To who do I give it to?

00:07:14Jack

So I tried to give it to one person and like that's not mine, that's not mine and a lot of if you're ever familiar with with the entertainment industry, no one wants to take responsibility for anything.

00:07:29Jack

So it all ends up on the intern.

00:07:33Jack

And so finally, in a very what we call in English a passive aggressive way, I wrote a note that said to whoever in music and I just put it on the on the top of the the counter of the front desk.

00:07:50Jack

And there were like five or six of these, and they were to nobody.

00:07:54Jack

I just wrote to whomever is interested in music or whatever.

00:08:00Jack

And one day when I wasn't there, the big boss came in and he saw these little passive aggressive notes and.

00:08:10Jack

He decided to fire me.

00:08:13Jack

However, it's a little bit difficult to fire someone that doesn't work for you if you don't pay them, and so it was, it was a.

00:08:24Jack

It was a strange situation and somehow I was able to keep my internship.

00:08:30Jack

Unfortunately, I was kind of hoping.

00:08:33Jack

That I was going to get fired, but UMI hung in there for a little while, but it was not a positive experience. I I realized that you know a movie production was not my main interest and so.

00:08:49Kevin

Yeah, that sounds like that that boss that.

00:08:51 Kevin

Manager like just.

00:08:53 Kevin

He didn't actually care about making make making things better for his employees.

00:08:58 Kevin

Just let them all do what they need to do and and it'll work out.

00:09:01 Jack

Well, we have a.

00:09:03 Jack

We have a an idiom for production assistance.

00:09:08 Jack

We call them Gophers.

00:09:10 Jack

Do you know Gopher Gopher is in is a little animal but also in the.

00:09:15 Kevin

Yeah, and this is similar.

00:09:17 Kevin

To the homonyms we were talking.

00:09:18 Kevin

About so an animal Gopher Gopher.

00:09:22 Jack

Yes, go for it means go for this.

00:09:25 Jack

Go for that.

00:09:26 Kevin

Yeah yeah yeah, go for my coffee.

00:09:26 Jack

Go for this.

00:09:27 Jack

Go for that, yeah.

00:09:29 Kevin

Go go for go, go for those copies go for yeah go for this go for that.

00:09:29 Jack

My coffee.

00:09:35 Kevin

Yeah this.

00:09:36 Kevin

But go for.

00:09:36 Xochitl

That's cute, I never heard of that.

00:09:38 Jack

So that's the.

00:09:39 Jack

The closest I ever got to being fired from a job that they didn't pay me.

00:09:40 Kevin

Maybe it's maybe it's old.

00:09:43 Jack

For so yeah.

00:09:44 Kevin

Nice, it's funny.

00:09:46 Kevin

Yeah and again you know working in a production company sounds like it could be a cool job, but when you don't have proper management it takes that.

00:09:55 Kevin

What could be a good job and it turns it into something.

00:09:58 발표자

Yeah, not cool.

00:09:59 Jack

And ohh guys, I really really wanted to hate their movies but gosh they make good such such good movies.

00:10:08 Jack

I watched them all.

00:10:09 Kevin

No, that's that's that's up to the creative people in the in.

00:10:13 Kevin

The group, not the others, Nice.

00:10:14 Jack

Yeah, that's true, yeah?

00:10:16 Kevin

Alright, so for everybody.

00:10:17 Kevin

Out there.

00:10:18 Kevin

What are some good or bad bosses that that you have had and what made that boss or that job such a good job or such a bad?

00:10:25 Kevin

Job, it's interesting to to compare.

00:10:28Kevin

I think it does come down to the boss, not always, but sometimes.

00:10:33Kevin

☒

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So we'll see you in the chats.

00:10:35Jack

All right bye bye.

00:10:37Xochitl

Bye bye.

00:10:51 발표자

Can you dig it?