

Name: _____

The Boss of Me

Directions: Think you know how to get along with the person in charge? Let's find out. First, read the article "Getting Along With the Boss" (page 23). Then complete each statement by circling the answer that best describes how you would react.

1. The boss asks you to perform a task that you are nervous about doing. You decide to
 - a) pretend you did the task—and hope he won't notice you didn't.
 - b) do the task even though you don't know how to do it properly.
 - c) talk directly to the boss about your concerns with the task.
 - d) tell one of your coworkers that the boss wants him or her to do the task.

2. You are running late for work. You should
 - a) not go in at all to avoid getting yelled at.
 - b) text your boss so you don't have to really explain to her why you are running late.
 - c) call your boss, apologize, and explain the circumstances that are making you late.
 - d) rub dirt all over your hands and pretend that you had a flat tire on your way to work.

3. You and your supervisor have a major disagreement. The best thing to do is
 - a) toss your name tag or uniform on the floor and quit on the spot.
 - b) talk behind your supervisor's back to get even with him.
 - c) sit down with your supervisor and calmly and rationally discuss your concerns.
 - d) pretend it didn't happen.

4. Your new boss is three times your age, and you feel uncomfortable. One way to react is to
 - a) make fun of her to your fellow employees.
 - b) ask whether you can be switched to a younger supervisor.
 - c) take time to get to know your boss and her interests.
 - d) keep to yourself as much as possible and avoid interacting with her.

How did you do? The best solution in all four scenarios is C. And if you take a close look, you'll quickly see why. Those are the options that simply require you to be honest, direct, and up-front—pretty much the keys to getting along with anybody.

Bonus: Do you think teen employees have a harder time getting along with a boss who is a few years older than they are, or with someone much older? Explain your reasons.
