

In your quest to compensate for a lack of enthusiasm, you don't need to become the resident cheerleader, either. Your boss will probably sense insincerity if she tells you to report at 7 a.m. tomorrow for a meeting and you react with a cheer of approval. Learn to say, "Sure!" without emitting a long sigh as you walk away. Remember, People Do Talk Not everything you do should be dictated by other people's opinions, but when you work in a group environment, you can't ignore their influence on your career either. If every smile you flash to the boss morphs into a disgruntled rant to a co-worker, word of your attitude will get around. Some bosses might dismiss it as gossip, but others will take it to heart. According to Cooke, a manager who senses that negativity is permeating the workplace will likely address the issue, which could hurt the naysayer's so salary increase, bonus, or chances for promotion. "Management realizes that they can maximize their productivity and therefore their bottom line by cultivating a healthy, robust organizational culture;" Cooke says. "Negativity can poison the air in the workplace and create a downward spiral for the workers. This is exactly what is not needed during already challenging times with the current state of the marketplace and the economy:" Milligan agrees with Cooke, and points out that most bosses hearing about a negative attitude will distinguish between petty gossip and a sincere concern about morale. "No one likes a tattletale, whether it's in grade school or the workplace:" Milligan explains. "However, if an employee's attitude is causing enough of a problem to where it needs to be addressed, then it becomes the manager's job to properly deal with it. Sometimes managers aren't in a position to witness negativity coming from their staff, which is why the motives of the 'messenger' must be taken into consideration. A good manager who is cued in to the team will certainly not want one person's attitude affecting everyone else:" Remember that not every aspect of a job will be fun and exciting.