

ABOUT US

Offices Kinshicho and
Sagamihara
Telephone: 03 5637 8809
Web
www.tomtom-english.com
Email
kinshicho@
tomtom-english.com

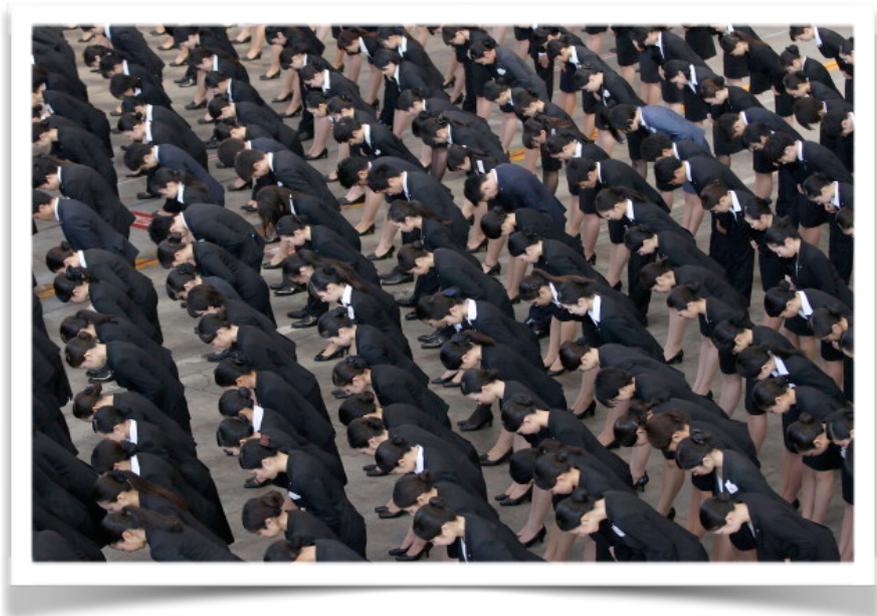


@tomtomenglish



Tom Tom English (Kinshicho)
Tom Tom English(Sagamihara)

TOM TOM ENGLISH



5 Ways to bug your older coworkers

VOCABULARY

Grumble =

To complain about something

Rub someone the wrong way =

To irritate, offend, or annoy someone

Sneak out =

To leave stealthily, quietly, with the intention of not being noticed

Pull a stunt =

To perform a dangerous or spectacular action

Discussion questions

1. Do you agree with the complaints made by older workers? Are they reasonable?
2. Do you think younger people have less initiative than previous generations? Why? Why not?
3. Did any of these complaints apply to you when you were a company freshman? Which ones?
4. Do you think there is anything that can be done to improve the working performance of new employees? What?
5. If you have a job now, what do you think about the freshman at your company? What are their good points and bad points?

VOCABULARY

Jot =

To write down something briefly or hastily

Sullen =

Gloomy, somber, unenthusiastic

Protocol =

A code of correct conduct

Initiative =

The power or ability to begin something enthusiastically, without prompting from others

Going out to see cherry blossoms, regardless of the weather, is by far Japan's favorite springtime activity. But there's another tradition that's almost as enthusiastically followed: veteran employees complaining about the new hires at their company. Right now at companies across Japan, older employees are **grumbling** about how the younger generation just doesn't get it. What are young professionals in Japan doing that's **rubbing** their coworkers **the wrong way**? A survey last year by Goo Ranking asked senior employees what surprised them about their companies' newest workers.

5. Without notice, young employees come late, leave early, and miss work

As in other countries, new employees showing up late is unfortunately all too common, and not showing up at all without calling in to say you need a day off is obviously an even bigger problem. As for employees simply **sneaking out** before quitting time? We can't recall any of our coworkers ever **pulling that stunt**, but nonetheless, it's technically a part of the number five response.

4. When someone is explaining something to them they don't take notes

There is, of course, the possibility that the new recruit simply has the mental capacity to keep up with the explanation and retain everything in his head. As the new guy in the office, though, it might be better business etiquette to at least make a show of **jotting** down a few notes, if for no reason other than to prove you're paying attention.

3. They can't use polite speech

This is tough hurdle in Japan, since the Japanese language has different classes of polite speech. One shows respect for the person you're talking to, and the other implies humility about yourself.

Japanese has a particularly large number of phrases and speech patterns that clearly differentiate whether you're speaking with respect or humility, and keeping them straight (or remembering to use them at all) can be difficult for new employees. The low amount of discussion between Japanese educators and their pupils, even at college, means most students don't acquire much experience speaking to people at higher levels.

2. They can't give a proper greeting

If you're not used to speaking with your superiors, but are vaguely aware that there's a whole linguistic **protocol** that dictates the right and wrong way to do it, there's a chance you'll adopt the defensive strategy of just keeping quiet until you're spoken to.

The downside is that doing so can make you look **sullen** or unenthusiastic about your job, so even if you feel a little self-conscious early on, you're better off giving a confident "Ohayou gozaimasu!"

1. They do what they're told to do, but nothing else

Comparatively, Japanese society values and respects experience. On the other hand, even in Japan, there's a certain minimum amount of **initiative** managers want employees to take, and while it might not be as much as in western companies, it's certainly more than "absolutely none."