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GREAT

WORKER



Start smoking.

the same brand of cigarettes as your boss

Welcome to Japan, where the smoking

room is the real boardroom. Want to

bond with your boss? Grab a lighter.

Matching your boss's cigarette brand is

considered next-level career ambition.

Yes or Yes

You see, you're only ever given two options.

And those options are—drumroll, please—YES or YES.

“Can you do this?” Yes.

“Are you able to handle that?” Yes.

“Mind doing me a little favour?” Yes.

No is simply not part of the vocabulary here.

Because as soon as you say no, well, consider your career progression officially stalled.

It doesn't matter how bizarre the request is,

Or how utterly unrelated to your actual job it might seem,

There's always a shiny promotion—or at least a nod from the boss

—waiting just beyond your enthusiastic “Yes.”

So, you reply.

“Yes, of course!”

Even if internally you're sighing with the weight of a thousand Mondays,

You plaster on that perfect smile and deliver your answer like a true professional.

This, my friend, is the secret magic phrase for surviving the wonderful theatre that is office life.

Not a Party — A Performance

Work drinks aren't really about “having fun.”

Even if you're invited like you're the star of the show—don't be fooled.

The true headliners of the evening are your boss, your seniors, or that all-important client.

Spoiler: it's not you.

Stay grounded. These aren't social events—they're part of the job description.

Leading the conversation, wrapping it up with a laugh, clapping at the right moments—that's your role. You're not at the table to shine; you're there to support the performance.

Which is exactly why prepping before a dinner is part of professional etiquette.

You may not be good with alcohol, but showing weakness? Not an option.

Enter: the humble hangover prevention tablet, Japan's unofficial salaryman sidekick.

No time to hesitate in the pharmacy aisle—this is standard issue.

So: meds in your pocket, smile on your face, and a polite “yes” loaded in the chamber.

Now off you go—to the front lines of forced laughter and tepid jokes.

Mastering the Art of the Office Stand-Up: When Your Boss Expects a Comedian

Always keep an emergency stash of jokes handy. Your boss is secretly expecting you to perform like a professional comedian.

That sudden “Got any funny stories?” demand can pop up anywhere, just when you least expect it — taxi rides, elevators, lunch breaks, or right before meetings start.

Those awkward silences? Perfect moments for your stand-up debut. Better have a few slightly embarrassing but safe anecdotes tucked away — school blunders, cringe-worthy dating disasters, anything relatable.

And do tell them with the flair of a pub comedian, quick and lively. Because, honestly, that’s basically a required skill for surviving office life these days.

Always have a shortlist of fancy restaurants. You never know.

Researching and inspecting dinner venues is your secret mission. If it's an important client, book somewhere so private even MI6 couldn't bug it. Bonus points for mood lighting and sliding doors.