

8 COMMON GRADUATE MISTAKES TO AVOID

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1. SOCIAL SKILLS

Weak eye contact, poor active listening, & neglecting polite interactions (e.g. not acknowledging others, excessive phone use) can alienate colleagues & harm professional relationships. They give up!



2. STANDARDS

Lack of professionalism in both formal and informal settings, including repeated poor timekeeping/grammar/attention to detail plus unprofessional behaviour, damages reliability and trust. You get labelled!



3. PRESENCE

Failing to maintain visibility and gravitas at work leads to missed opportunities. Being mentally absent in conversations, avoiding eye contact, and being distracted by mobile phones diminish your influence.



4. BALANCE

Extremes in expressing views—either too passive or overly vocal—can disrupt team dynamics. Mood swings and prioritising self-recognition over team contributions strain relationships and harm the work environment.



5. ISOLATIONISM

Acting in isolation, rather than canvassing others' input. Failing to immediately communicate setbacks and then becoming defensive only erodes trust, leads to blame-shifting, and damages relationships.



6. TRIBALISM

Keeping with Gen Zs only. Diving into tasks without first asking for input from across gens means you miss out on years of wisdom & political nous from those who know the job. Rejecting diverse views & experiences stifles learning and strains relationships.



7. ENTITLEMENT

Expecting rapid rewards whether in terms of mentoring, responsibility, projects, remuneration or big bonuses leads to frustration, disappointment, & potentially rash career moves due to unrealistic self worth.



8. GROWTH AVERSE

Expecting others to champion your personal development while avoiding self-improvement opportunities or proactively pursuing added skills growth leads to stagnation and missed growth prospects.



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