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Top 10 Tell-Tale Signs Of A Bad Boss

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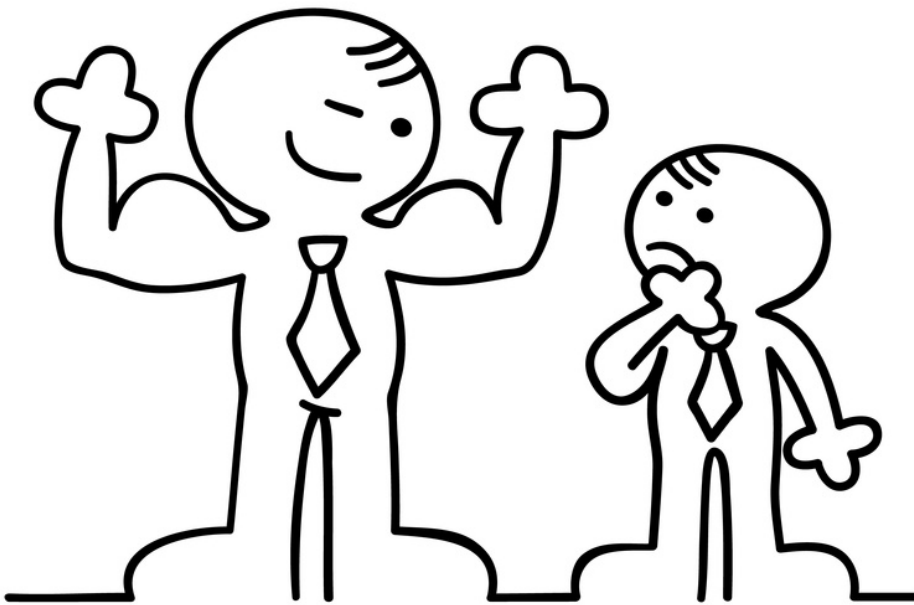


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Let's face it; we have all seen and experienced bad bosses. There are the ones that bully, the ones that only care about themselves and their own career, the cowards that hide behind others or the ones that drive you mad by trying to tell you how to do your job in the minutest level of detail. Seeing bad bosses in action can be hilarious but if you are on the receiving end of a bad boss it is usually no laughing matter. Bad bosses cause so much unnecessary stress in the work place and are a major cause of reduced productivity and performance.



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make us feel uncomfortable or in the worst case completely stressed out. I work with so many different companies all over the world, across all industries and sectors and believe I can tell whether someone is a good boss or not within seconds of meeting them and their team. You can just tell by what they say, how they say it and how they and their team behave. Here are my top ten tell-tale signs of a bad boss:

1. **The Ego-Tripper** - a boss that is arrogant, shows off at any opportunity and is in constant need of boosting his or her ego
2. **The Coward** - a boss that takes on no accountability and often hides behind others
3. **The Micromanager** - a boss that believes he knows how others should do their job, who can't trust people to just get on with their job and instead micro-manages everything they do
4. **The Incapable** - a boss that has been promoted beyond his or her capabilities, has no clue how to do the job and has lost all respect of subordinates and co-workers
5. **The Over-friendly Mate** - a boss that inappropriately wants to be your best mate or nearest friend
6. **The Bad Communicator** - a boss that is unable to communicate anything effectively, be it the corporate strategy or individual performance feedback

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7. **The Plagiariizer** - a boss that takes credit for other people's work or ideas and passes it off as his own (especially to his or her boss)
8. **The Negative** - a boss that just can't say anything positive and instead turns everything into doom-and-gloom
9. **The Ego-Centric** - a boss that doesn't care about the people who work for him and is not interested in helping, coaching and developing anyone else but himself
10. **The Criticizer** - a boss that is quick to criticize mistakes others make and is unable to provide constructive feedback

For me, each of the above are clear signs of a bad manager and when you get a boss with one or maybe two of the signs then you can usually manage around them (not ideal but doable). Really problematic is when you end up with a boss that shows several of them at the same time, in which case I can only wish you good luck!

Do you agree with the list? Are there other tell-tale signs you would add? Or have you got any stories, insights or experiences to share on the topic?

Bernard Marr is a best-selling business author and enterprise performance expert. Make sure you click 'Follow' if you would like to hear more from Bernard Marr in the future and feel free to also connect via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [The Advanced Performance Institute](#)

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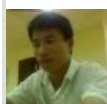


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Neil J.

Managing Director at Tees Financial

The guy who passes on unpopular decisions simply by forwarding the email from his boss. Look it's not my decision but I have no choice. That's abdicating responsibility and borrowing authority

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TANWEER K.

Sr. Planning Supervisor

excellent article must read

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Colin C.

Fleet Business Manager at Scarborough Toyota

Definitely 1,3,6,8,9 & 10 I have seen in bosses especially when I was a junior. However, as you gain more experience and are wanted by business, these numbers usually fall away and you can almost get to the point of picking your boss. My current boss/s have none of the credentials listed above. I guess I am very fortunate to be in this position. :)

Like · Reply · 3 minutes ago



Tina S.

Sales Adminstrative Coordinator

I agree 100% with this list and have had the unpleasant experience of getting a boss with most of these traits wrapped all into one. Upper management finally realized what was going on and that boss's time was cut short.

Like · Reply · 3 minutes ago



Puwezima W.

Cloud & Remote Services Manager at Dataprise

Interesting and great article.

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Angie T.

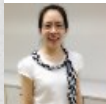
Senior Manager, Technology Planning and Management at Alberta Education

I don't find this article to be particularly helpful, except in classifying the flaws of a bad boss. How might one cope with a particular kind of boss? What are some techniques that may improve the situation? I see none of that here.

Like (2) · Reply · 4 minutes ago



Nichole K. and Diana C.



Rin W.

Senior Anti-fruad Consultant at TMB Bank PCL

I think my boss falls into more than 1 categories! :-(

Like · Reply · 4 minutes ago



Ahmed S.

Banquet Server at Fairmont Royal York

Bad managers are most frequent in non-unionized businesses...

Like · Reply · 6 minutes ago



Lizanne A.

Marketing Communications Professional

I would definitely add the Bullying Boss!!!

Like · Reply · 6 minutes ago



Wendy T.

Project Director at Mashman Communications

These are necessary traits to get to the top....:)

Like · Reply · 6 minutes ago



Amelia W.

sales manager at VOPTEL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD

I was just sometimes confused why these people become the boss when they are so flaw

Like · Reply · 7 minutes ago



Angela M.

QC Supervisor at The Montalvo Corporation

My former boss is #3, I will never work for a Micromanager again

Like · Reply · 8 minutes ago



Sreedhar K.

Project Manager at ABB GISL

Amazingly, I never had any of these types. I always had a boss that I looked up to and drawn my daily dose of inspiration.

Like · Reply · 10 minutes ago



Ryan O.

Senior Manager For International Sales & Business Development at Far East Group Limited

After reading the article, well it make me start thinking whether I belong to one of them.

Being a good boss, it will bring up the morale of staff and improve the working environment in the company.

A good self-reflection for all bosses.....

Like · Reply · 10 minutes ago



Pascal M.

Project Manager at Freyssinet Asia

OMG. I had a boss who was a combination of 1, 3, 6, 9 and 10. A lethal combination

Like · Reply · 10 minutes ago



Billie F.

Healthcare Professional(Retired)

We have all had these employers at one time or another, and usually in time, they are promoted or replaced, rarely let go. Its tough to wait them out but it can be done.

Like · Reply · 11 minutes ago



jing Z.

sales manager at Tianjin research institute of construction machinery

my boss is considerable, he is contemplate with everything, has plenty of experiences, he is extraordinary. also he is brain exhausting.

Like · Reply · 11 minutes ago



Ahmed S.

Banquet Server at Fairmont Royal York

This is why workers need "Unions" to protect them from cut throat and malicious managers....when push comes to shove, human resource will only look out for the best interest of the organization.

Like · Reply · 11 minutes ago



John K.

Offering research services for electronic design, compliance, patent decisions and breaches

So if you run into bad bosses - please, please, please do the rest of us a favor: TELL THEM. Don't just let them continue to be bad bosses. Don't hide in fear under the carpet your job lays on top of. Take the risk. You might actually find that boss will thank you for pointing out their flaws. And if you lose your job over it...believe me...that will be in your favor to find another

place to work with a far better boss where you can get ahead.

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Agnes B.



Rafael V.

IT Support at Fast Retailing

It all makes sense...good read!

Like · Reply · 14 minutes ago



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