



WHAT THE F*CK!?

Bloody Hell, doesn't it really piss you off when someone swears in the office?

BY JESUS H CHRIST

SURELY PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR F*CKING TEMPER?

If I have offended you then welcome to the real world of today's office. Pointless in complaining really as this is what it has come to, quite literally. People seem to have adopted epithets into their vocabulary as if they were just normal words, and worse still, many have not been able to draw the line between their personal and professional lives.

Only yesterday I was sitting in the reception of a professional looking company and I could quite clearly overhear a conversation going on just through the door into an office. Literally every sentence uttered by each person contained a swear word.

What kind of impression does this give a business? You know full well the directors would have a fit if they knew this. But what can, or is, being done to stop it? Nothing as far as I can see. Have you ever heard of a company which has a no swearing policy? (Alright so probably in America) They have every other policy under the sun but have they genuinely thought how offensive such behaviour can be to customers? I think not. There are the odd few offices which take matters into their own hands and set up swear boxes. Every swear word is fined £1 and then everyone goes to the pub and swears like how's your father over a pint.

So how did we get to this? I've looked high and low for an explanation and I have two reasons to propose.

1) STRESS.

Stress has become commonplace in the workplace. If companies focussed on their most vital assets, their people, gave them more support and training and didn't demand so much of them, there would be less stress. And with it a calmer, nicer work environment.

2) TV

I sound like my mother here, but swearing as a part of life has made its way to us via the TV. And when those who forget there is a difference between fiction and reality introduce it to the office and it remains unchallenged, we have it and it is there to stay.

But do you think swearing leads to anything? Like marijuana leads to crack?! I've read a lot of

research that says swearing does lead to more widespread rudeness. I guess the fact that swearers clearly don't care about offending others influences their lack of care in general: being late for meetings, leaving their mobiles on in meetings, forgetting their pleases and thank yous etc. Hmm, not sure I buy that.

And it doesn't stop there. Apparently (and I take this with a pinch of salt) swearing leads to sexual harassment. More likely I suspect that people misunderstand, take it the wrong way, it spirals and out of control. Either way no one wants to get into that kind of situation. And, if only for that reason and that alone, I think we should all wash our mouths out with soap and fully exploit this wonderful language we have been given.

Bring back the swear box or, better still, public flogging. ■