

What employers (really really) want



“Master the secret art of employer mind-reading”

Today in the competitive job market, employers want more than just another polymath with a PhD, a Nobel Prize, the cure for Multiple Myeloma Cancer, a photographic memory, multilingualism, or the ability to arrive at work on time.

You need to come up with something that makes you “special”, something that meets a vital human need – can you read your bosses’ mind?

No? Crikey! Get out there and put some effort into it. Here’s a helpful tip: watch *What Women Want*. When a fluke accident happens to Mel

Gibson’s character (an advertising executive in Chicago), his ears are suddenly enabled to hear what women actually think.

His first target is Helen Hunt, who plays the very woman promoted to the dream position he wants in the company. Gibson decides to sabotage his new boss by reading her thoughts and selling her ad ideas as his own. A surefire way of conquering the employment world!

The movie was released in 2000, and you’d have thought a humongous number of employees everywhere would have used the last seven years to master the secret art of employer mind-reading! But nobody did, so you better play catch-up right now!

For the cost of a few brain cells and the effort of passing this *Utimes* edition to 100 other classmates, here’s *The Job-Heckler’s Guide to the Employment Galaxy*.

Some job-hecklers find it hard to understand what employers

really, really want and why they prefer one employee over another. They think employers practise favouritism or that the employee is bending over backwards to be favoured, trying to be the “teacher’s pet”.

Well, the Employment Galaxy is not like school or university. At work, employers try to identify the best employees because they get into the swing of business rapidly. This means employers can sit back and relax with a milky space-cocktail, as net profits increase, stock prices rise, annual salaries double, industrial awards are given to the company and promotions are dished out.

Aussie employers want you to have skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving, self-management, planning and organising, technology, life-long learning and initiative and enterprise.

In simple galactic language, this means before you are hired, the bosses want to find out if you really know how to type or

if you really have learned the engineering of effective car brakes. They want to discover how you will behave with other people while you are typing documents or designing cars.

They want to distinguish you as the type who will work hard rather than the type who looks for the easiest way out. They want to realize early that you will not be absent frequently but can be depended upon to be there.

Now that you’ve been let in on the employers’ points of view, focus on them! In general, the *Guide* translates all these to your attitude. Your good attitude determines these employability skills, and establishes your high altitude in the employment galaxy.

So the next time you please your boss to your advantage, be sure to send Mel Gibson a handwritten thank-you note. He started this mind-reading thing.

Jenny Chan

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