



## How Bad Is Your Boss? An Assessment Quiz

How bad is your boss, really? How difficult is the situation you have to cope with? This quiz will help you rate your situation compared to others so you can better put your own boss in perspective. After all, you may think your boss is really bad in some ways, but not so bad in others, while other people may have a boss who is bad in many ways. This quiz will help you better understand what to do to deal with your situation, from making the best of it, to having a conversation, to bringing in a neutral third party or advocate, to moving on—preferably with a good reference.

These 25 questions are based on the major issues raised in this book. Just rate how bad you think your boss is in each area. Answer as honestly as you can so you can most accurately assess your situation. Understanding is the first step to finding a solution.

Rate your boss on a scale from 0–4 on each question and then add up the totals. See the scoring key at the end to see how your boss rates. When there are two questions under a heading, these usually reflect extremes of behavior. So your boss is likely to rate bad for only one of these questions—unless of course, he engages in both types of bad behavior at different times (in which case, you’re in even more trouble).

**RATING**  
**(from 0–4)**

**AGGRESSIVENESS**

- 1. My boss is too aggressive in the way he gives orders and tells me what to do. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. My boss is too weak and wishy-washy; he is too much of a pushover. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROL**

- 3. My boss is too domineering and controlling; he wants to micromanage everything. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. My boss is overly disorganized and he often doesn't have a clue about what's going on; he delegates too much and loses control. \_\_\_\_\_

**DECISIVENESS**

- 5. My boss often makes snap or bad decisions or doesn't take into consideration what others want. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. My boss is indecisive and has difficulty making any decisions so often things just happen. He keeps changing his mind, or I end up deciding for him. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNICATION**

- 7. My boss is a poor communicator because he often yells and screams or speaks in rude and insulting ways. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. My boss is a poor communicator because he doesn't explain or provide needed information very well. \_\_\_\_\_

**GAMESMANSHIP**

- 9. I feel like my boss is playing power games with me, such as by ordering me to do things just to get me to do them, all simply to show his power. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. I feel like my boss is playing power games with others in the office and I am caught in this struggle between two bosses. \_\_\_\_\_

**SEX IN THE OFFICE**

11. I feel like my boss is taking advantage of his position by hitting on me. \_\_\_\_\_
12. I am disturbed that my boss is having a relationship with someone else in the office. \_\_\_\_\_

**IT'S A CRIME**

13. I believe my boss is involved in criminal activities and wants me to cover up for him. \_\_\_\_\_
14. My boss wants me to engage in some illegal or criminal activities and I don't feel comfortable doing so. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUST AND KEEPING PROMISES**

15. I don't trust my boss because he makes promises to me and then doesn't follow through. \_\_\_\_\_
16. I don't trust my boss because he frequently lies to me and others. \_\_\_\_\_

**FAIRNESS AND FLEXIBILITY**

17. I don't think my boss is fair because he plays favorites in the office or doesn't give me the proper recognition for what I do. \_\_\_\_\_
18. I think my boss is too rigid and inflexible and doesn't adapt to the situation. \_\_\_\_\_

**IN SEARCH OF PERFECTION**

19. I think my boss is an unreasonable perfectionist, and he continually makes me do things unnecessarily to get it absolutely right. \_\_\_\_\_

**A LACK OF TRAINING**

20. My boss is terrible at providing training, instruction, and education, so I often am not sure what I am doing or am supposed to do. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOT REALLY A MANAGER**

- 21. While my boss has a lot of technical knowledge, he doesn't have any management skills, and mostly works on his own projects without trying to manage or lead others.

**CONSIDERATION, COMPASSION, AND PERSONAL INTEREST**

- 22. My boss shows a lack of sensitivity, consideration, or compassion for others, such as not being sympathetic when someone is sick or has family problems. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. My boss is too much of a busybody because he wants to know too much about my personal life. \_\_\_\_\_

**NO CREDIT**

- 24. My boss unfairly takes the credit for other people's work and doesn't properly recognize people for the work they do. \_\_\_\_\_

**EMOTIONAL AND UNPREDICTABLE**

- 25. My boss is totally unpredictable because he is so emotional and blows hot and cold; I'm never sure what'll set him off. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rating System**

Think of the results of this quiz as a flight report that can help you deal with the different types of captains you'll encounter during your flight through the sometimes friendly and sometimes not-so-friendly skies of the workplace. It's a guide to the overall difficulty of working with your boss. The lower the score, the better your boss is to work with; the higher the score, the more difficult he is to work with. Use the results to help assess how bad your boss really is and what you can do about it.

- 0–10 = Your boss is absolutely a dream boss to work for. Are you really sure he is that great?
- 10–19 = Generally, you've got a good boss, save just a few rough spots here and there.
- 20–29 = Your boss is starting to get difficult, but try to work through your problems before you throw in the towel.
- 30–39 = You've got serious pilot problems. Time to seriously deal with your problems or consider finding another boss.
- 40–59 = Mayday! Mayday! You could be in for a crash landing with a very difficult boss.
- 60–99 = Crack up! This is definitely a disaster. Get ready to crash and pull together the pieces after you land on your feet.