



(U) Letters to Zelda: More Suggestions from Our Readers

FROM: SIDtoday

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(U) Last week, *Zelda* addressed a question about employees who take long "breaks" by hanging around other employees' desks and disrupting their work. **Zelda gave good advice**, but several readers wrote in with more great ideas for getting rid of these unwanted visitors. I guess spending your break annoying someone who's busy at work is a fairly common practice...and yet, some people *still* don't take the hint!

SIDtoday readers wrote:

- (U) There is an additional suggestion that I have found most useful. All you have to do is task the person who interrupts you with work. They will 1.) leave immediately and 2.) stop visiting you.
-- (U//FOUO) [REDACTED] (b)(3)-P.L. 86-36
- (U) I feel like "Shoot Me Now" has missed out on the oldest trick in the NSA book for getting out of unwanted diversions/conversations -- put headphones on! :) Listen to the radio, news, meditation music, or nothing at all, no one will be the wiser.
-- (U) Name withheld
- (U) [I recommend] something like "I'm sorry, but I'm busy on this, and not able to talk. Thanks." It essentially makes clear with no ambiguity that the chatter's break needs to be taken elsewhere - and probably doesn't burn any bridges regarding work-related talk in future.
-- (U//FOUO) [REDACTED] (b)(3)-P.L. 86-36
- (U) Whatever happened to honesty? While feelings might be a bit hurt at the beginning, there has to be some sort of diplomatic way to get the point across without burning bridges. Something to the degree of "Listen, I enjoy our conversations, but lately they have become much more frequent and are lasting for a pretty long time -- they are starting to affect my work. Can we catch up at a time when we both have a free moment?"
-- (U//FOUO) [REDACTED] (b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

(U) Do you have more advice for people with this type of problem? **Share your suggestions** on the **SIDtoday blog**.

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