WORKINGLIFE

D Double Dare You

Dare to be different. Dare to be fired.

By Haidee E. Allerton

Office Dares

Go ahead. Do something crazy. Here are some **1-point dares** for beginners: • Run one lap all the way around the

office at top speed.Ignore the first five people who say good morning to you.

 Phone someone in the office you barely know, leave your name, and say, "Just called to say I can't talk right now. Bye." • To signal the end of a conversation, clamp your hands over your ears and grimace.

Illustrations by Joel Holland

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- Men: Leave your zipper open for one hour. If anyone points it out, say, "Sorry, I really prefer it this way."
- While riding an elevator, gasp dramatically every time the doors open.
- Walk sideways to the photocopier.

Here are some **3-point dares** for intermediate players:

• Say to your boss, "I like your style," and shoot him or her with double-barreled fingers.

• Babble incoherently at a co-worker and ask, "Did you get all that? I don't want to have to repeat it."

• Page yourself over the intercom (don't disguise your voice).

• Kneel in front of the water cooler and drink directly from the nozzle. There must be a nonplayer within sight.

• Shout random numbers while someone is counting.

And for the intrepid and/or foolhardy, **5-point dares**:

At lunchtime, get down on your knees and announce, " As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again."

• At the end of a meeting, suggest that, for once, it would be nice to conclude with the singing of the national

anthem. Extra points if you actually launch into it yourself.

• Walk into a very busy person's office and while they watch you with growing irritation, turn the light switch off and on 10 times.

• For an hour, refer to everyone you speak to as "Bob."

• After every sentence, say "mon" in a really bad Jamaican accent. As in, "The report's on your desk, mon." • While an office mate is out, move his or her chair into the elevator.

• In a meeting or crowded situation, slap your forehead repeatedly and mutter, "Shut up, darn it, all of you just shut up!"

• In a colleague's day planner, write in the 10 a.m. slot: "See how I look in purple tights."

• Carry your keyboard over to a coworker and ask, "Do you wanna trade?"

• Repeat the following conversation 10 times to the same person: "Do you hear that?" *What?* "Never mind, it's gone now."

• Speak with an accent (French, German, Porky Pig) during an important conference call.

 Hang a 2-foot piece of toilet paper from the back of your pants, and act genuinely surprised when someone points it out.

Our work here is done. ∢
→ Source/FOWL (Friend of Working Life)