

COFFEE WITH SAM CHOO

MAKING A LIVING WITHOUT A JOB

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World Day Celebration

How to Deal with an Overly
Critical Boss (and Keep
Your Sanity)

Do AI Assistants Make Us
Dumber and Lazier?

The Pros and Cons of Being
Self-Employed



1. World Day Celebrations

Here are some of the world days celebrated on June 12th:

- **World Day Against Child Labour:** This day was launched by the International Labour Organisation to focus attention on the worldwide extinction of child labour.
- **National Red Rose Day:** This day is celebrated as the most iconic symbol of love and romance.
- **National Loving Day:** This day is celebrated by gathering with friends, family and loved ones to celebrate love in all its forms

Are you celebrating these world days?

Article 1: How to Deal with an Overly Critical Boss (and Keep Your Sanity)

Is your boss a critique machine? Here's how to turn their negativity into your secret weapon for success.



We've all been there. You put your heart and soul into a project, and your boss swoops in with a red pen the size of a highlighter. It's enough to make anyone deflate. But hold on, there are ways to navigate this critical minefield without losing your sanity.

1. Think of Them as a (Super Demanding) Coach:

Look, your boss might be a critique machine, but hey, at least they care! They wouldn't be on your case so much if they didn't believe in your potential. Try to see their criticism as a (slightly annoying) way to push you to be your best. Think of them like a super demanding sports coach — tough, but ultimately there to help you win.

2. Be Proactive, Not Reactive:

Don't wait for the feedback avalanche. Before you even start a project, bounce ideas off your boss. Show them rough drafts early on to get a sense of their expectations. This way, you can address potential issues before they snowball into a full-blown critique session.

3. “Wait, There’s Good Stuff Too, Right?”

Sometimes critical bosses get stuck on the negative. Help them see the bigger picture. Next time you get feedback, ask them what they think is working well. This might nudge them to offer a more balanced perspective.

4. “Can You Be More Specific, Coach?”

Vague criticism is the worst. If your boss throws out a general “This needs work,” don't be afraid to ask for specifics. Examples are your friend! The more concrete the feedback, the easier it is to understand and actually improve.

5. Offer a solution

Scenario: Your boss criticizes the formatting of a client presentation, saying it looks “unprofessional.”

Your Response: “Yes, I understand that the formatting could be improved to give a more professional look. I've already created some alternative

layouts based on recent client feedback. Would you be open to taking a look at those and seeing if they address your concerns?”

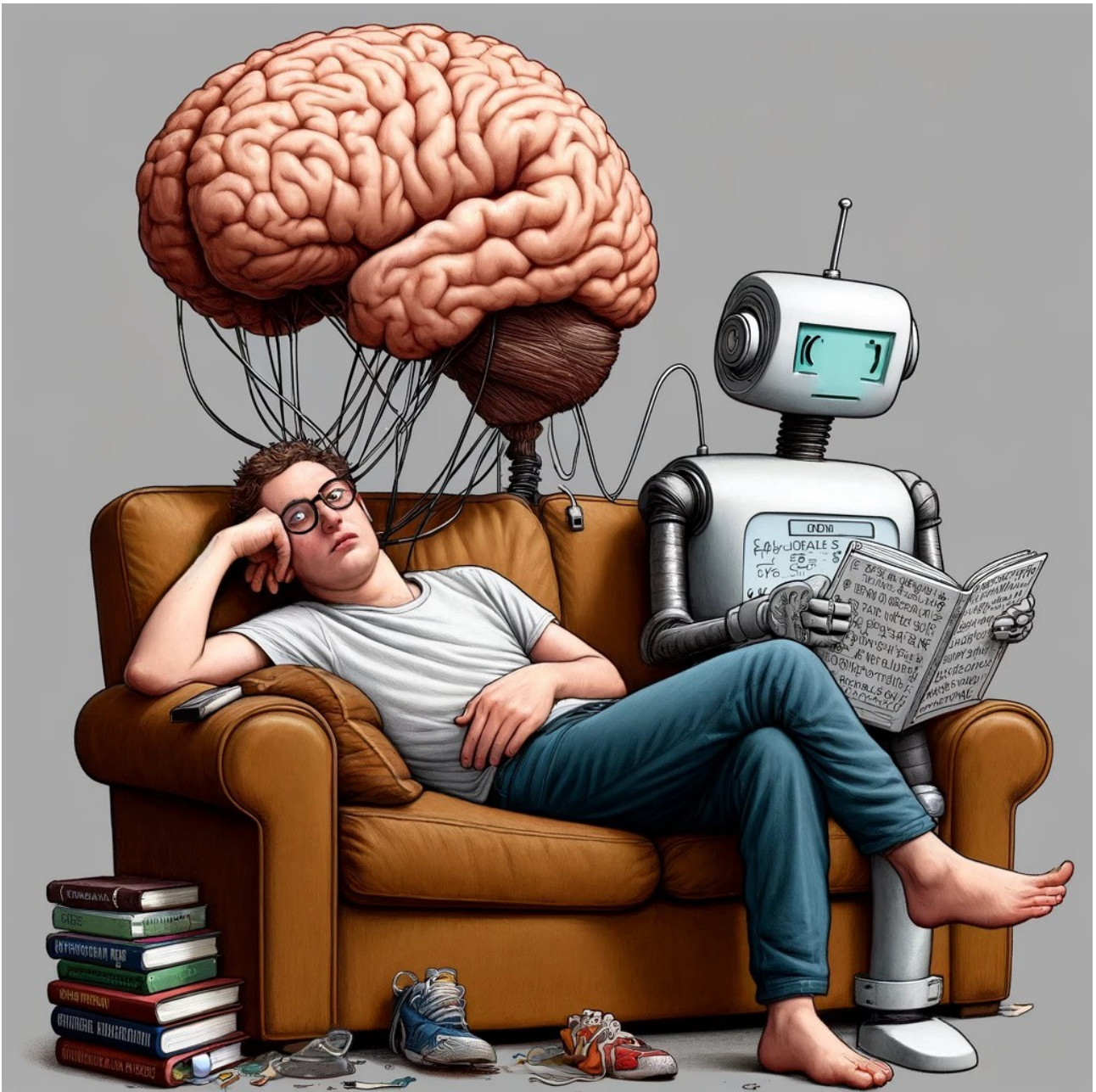
This response acknowledges the boss’s point (“Yes”) while offering a solution that demonstrates your initiative and problem-solving skills. It also keeps the focus on collaboration rather than defensiveness.

6. Positive Reinforcement Works on Everyone

When they do give you constructive and positive feedback, acknowledge it! A simple “Thanks, that helps me feel motivated” goes a long way. It lets them know what kind of feedback is most helpful and keeps you motivated despite the constant critiques.

Remember, dealing with a critical boss can be tough, but with these tips, you can transform them from a demoralizing drill sergeant into a (slightly less annoying) coach who helps you reach your full potential.

Article 2: Do AI Assistants Make Us Dumber and Lazier?



This thought-provoking analysis exposes the potential downsides of relying too heavily on AI for cognitive tasks.

These days, we've got AI assistants to help with just about everything — writing, researching, math, coding, you name it. While super handy, this raises the question — are we becoming over-reliant on AI and not exercising our own brains enough?

There's certainly a risk that we get lazy and let the AI do all the critical thinking for us. Instead of puzzling through a problem ourselves, we just ask the AI for the answer. Rather than analyzing an issue from multiple angles, we take the AI's perspective at face value.

And when we constantly offload cognitive work to AI, our own skills can get rusty through disuse. It's like if you stopped exercising — your muscles would become weak over time. The same can happen to the brain if we don't keep it active through reasoning, analysis, and creative thought.

There's also the issue of developing shortcut-seeking habits. AI makes it easy to get quick answers, but that can condition us toward seeking out superficial solutions instead of diving deep. We have to watch that relying on AI doesn't erode our patience and diligence.

So how can we harness AI's power while keeping our wits sharp? Moderation is key — use AI as an assistive tool, not an outright substitute for thinking. When the AI gives you an answer, don't just accept it blindly. Analyze it critically, question it, and try to poke holes in it. That way, you're exercising your reasoning ability. It's also wise to carve out regular "AI-free" time. Spend an hour or two each day going through your work or studying without AI aids. This helps keep your skills fresh and prevents overdependence. The rise of AI assistants is incredibly useful in many ways. But we have to be intentional about using them as supplements to our intelligence, not replacements for it. With some care and self-awareness, we can enjoy AI's benefits without going dumb.

Article 3: The Pros and Cons of Being Self-Employed



Discover the unfiltered truth about being your own boss - from the freedom to nap whenever you want to the financial rollercoaster that comes with it, get ready to rethink your dream of self-employment!

As someone who has been self-employed for over 10 years, I've experienced both the benefits and drawbacks of this career path. Here's my honest take on what I love and dislike about being my own boss.

Pros

1. Flexibility and Work-Life Balance

I no longer need an alarm clock, and I can sleep in as late as I want. Afternoon naps are also a luxury I can afford. I've never had to suffer from lack of sleep again.

2. Autonomy and Peace of Mind

I don't have to deal with a boss who criticizes me, a supervisor who bullies me, or difficult customers and colleagues who dump their work on me. I have complete peace of mind and freedom from office politics.

3. Quality Family Time

Working from home has allowed me to spend more time with my family. I'm no longer absent from their lives, and I can attend to their needs whenever they require my attention. My relationship with my wife has significantly improved as a result.

Cons

1. Financial Instability

As a self-employed individual, I face a constant rollercoaster of feast and famine. I worry about earning enough to pay the bills, and financial stability is a luxury I can only dream of.

2. Loneliness

I miss the social interaction and camaraderie that comes with having colleagues. It can get lonely working solo, and I have to make an effort to stay connected with friends and family.

3. One-Person Army

As a solo entrepreneur, I have to handle everything myself, from administrative tasks to project delivery. It can be overwhelming at times, and I often wish I had a team to share the workload with.

Conclusion

While being self-employed has its challenges, I'm happier doing what I love and having the freedom to choose my work. However, this path is not for everyone, and it's essential to be aware of the pros and cons before taking the leap. It's not for the faint of heart, but if you're willing to put in the effort, the rewards can be immense.

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