

Avoiding the Pink Slip

You only have to visit your nearest shopping mall to know that the economic situation is **precarious**. Sales **abound** ... 30% off! 40% off! 70% off! Will we ever get used to paying normal **retail prices** ever again?

Forgive me for jumping on my soapbox, but if you're worried that your job **is on the chopping block**, then it's time to take action. There may be means **at your disposal** to help avoid **getting canned**.

Do what you can to make yourself more valuable than the average co-worker. If it's your job to work the cash register in the front of the store, learn how to take customers' money and sell the products. Showing **initiative** sends the signal that you can take on new responsibilities if the situation presents itself.

If there are voluntary working groups at your company, join them. Better still, become the committee chairperson.

When the boss needs someone to **step up**, offer to help. Making yourself known to top management lets you stand out from the **rank and file**.

If co-workers eat lunch in a big group, join in. Attend after-work social events (but remember if there's alcohol involved, take it easy). Being known on a personal level increases your likeability.

O.K., but this is not high school, you say. **Performance** and **seniority** matter most in the workplace.

True, but when co-workers like you, they will **pull for you** when times get tough.

Now is a good time to remember the **subtle** role that interpersonal skills play in avoiding a **layoff**.

Glossary

abound	olla runsaasti
at your disposal	käytettävissä
be on the chopping block	olla vaakalaudalla
forgive me for jumping on my soapbox	tässä: anteeksi jos hieman agitoin
get canned	saada potkut (puhekielinen)
initiative	aloitekyky
layoff	irtisanominen; lomautus (usein: temporary layoff)
performance	suoritus
pink slip	kirjallinen irtisanominen (puhekielinen)
precarious	epävarma, uhanalainen
pull for you	tukea, kannustaa
rank and file	rivijäsen
retail price	vähittäismyyntihinta
seniority	virka vuosien määrä
step up	tässä: ottaa vastuuta
subtle	hienovarainen