



### Sycophant\*

Sucking up to the boss is a time-honored weasel tradition and an excellent way to keep your job. The technique has been around for a long time. I'm guessing it started at the dawn of humanity when the first cave person said to his tribal leader, "You make good fire. Ogg could never make fire that good. Your club is huge."

Thanks to evolution, humans made the leap from sniffing butts to kissing butts, and the seeds of capitalism were sown.



The great thing about being a sycophant is that there's no deception going on. You know you're a weasel, your boss knows

\*This is the fancy word for a butt-kissing, suck-up weasel.

you're a weasel, and your coworkers know you're a weasel. And yet, the method still works like a charm. As a flatterer, you're competing for your boss's affections against people who are disgruntled whiners. You could be the most heinous sycophant in the world and still win that competition. When it's time to downsize, is your boss going to get rid of the person who says, "Your hair is excellent and your judgment is even better," or the one who says, "If I fail because of budget cuts, I'm telling everyone it was your fault"?

Dear Mr. Adams,

Our company changed its name and had a meeting to announce the new name. Our CEO was answering questions from the employees and wanted to check with one of his VPs in the back of the room to see if he had anything to add to the answer the CEO had just given. The VP said, "I think what you think."

### Forecasting

When you lie about the future, that's called optimism, and it is considered a virtue. Technically speaking you can't "lie" about the future because no one knows what will happen. When you apply this unique brand of optimism (not lying!) at work, that's called forecasting.

If your job burdens you with something called "knowledge," then you probably have people bugging you to predict the future of sales or expenses or market share or employee injuries or

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