

Working in Denmark?



SEGES

A short introduction to Danish culture for foreign workers

Denmark is a small, yet proud country and we certainly have our own (and sometimes strange) ways and habits when talking, working and socializing with our colleagues. As a way of welcoming you to the Danish agricultural profession, we hope that this book helps you understand the Danish culture a little better. Enjoy!



Irony

The Danish humor is a complex matter. It may be difficult to understand, because we love to use irony when joking and having fun with each other. It may sound a bit hard, but we don't mean any harm with it. It's simply our way of making jokes. If you don't feel comfortable with our type of humor, please tell us.



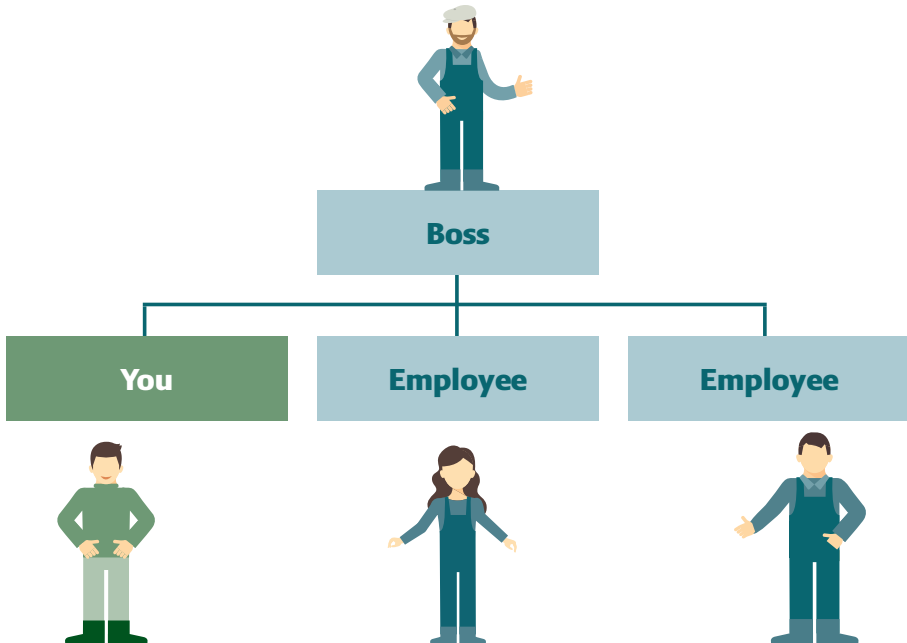
Working women

In Denmark, men and women have equal opportunities. Many Danish women have their own career, and more than 70% Danish women are working. This means that you will meet women having the same working conditions as you. Perhaps your new boss is a woman, and she should be treated with the same respect as a man.



A flat organization

In Denmark, it is normal for a boss to give the employees a lot of responsibility for their daily work. Maybe your boss is working on another location and needs someone in charge where you are working. It is also normal to act friendly and informal towards your boss. You don't have to be best friends, but we talk nicely to each other and show interest in each other's lives, work and spare time.



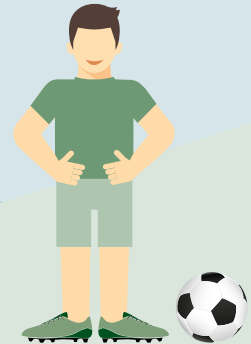
Mistakes at work

Mistakes happen – they're part of life. Don't be afraid or ashamed to tell your boss about your mistakes. If you put your pride aside, you can work together as a team and fix them and learn from them. And your boss will appreciate and respect your honesty.



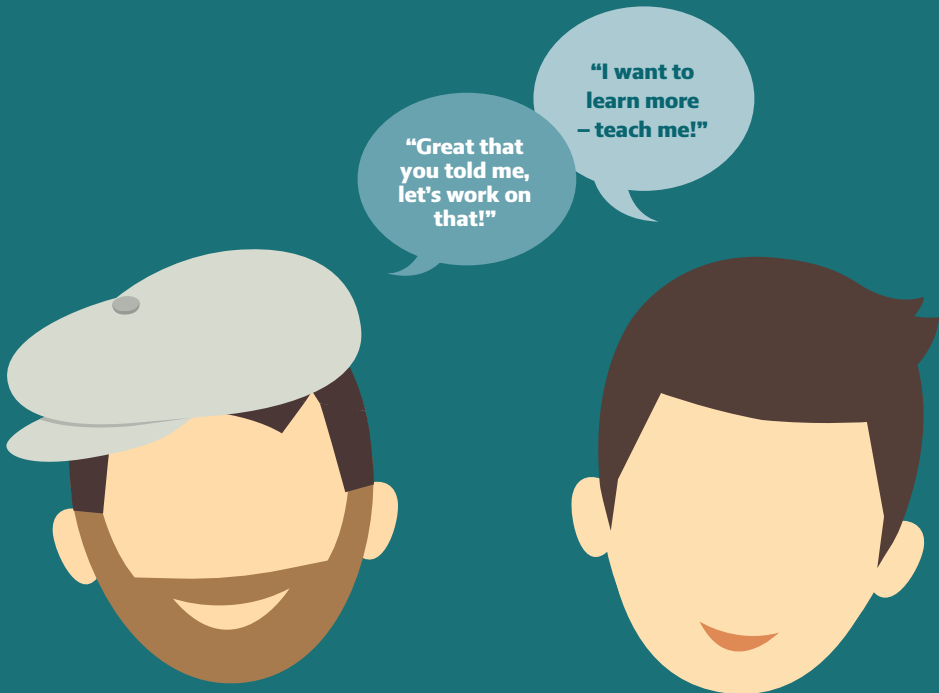
What do you like to do in your spare time?

Ask your boss about how to spend your spare time. Maybe you want to go to a restaurant, a coffee shop, the library, a food market or to the movies? Or perhaps you want to exercise at the local gym or play soccer or tennis?



It's okay to make demands to your boss

Talk to your boss, if you want to learn something new. He needs to know your ambitions in order to help you achieve your goals.



Tell your boss about your ideas

In Denmark, you are encouraged to tell your boss about your ideas. If you have a good idea on how to improve your work process or make your job easier or better, tell your boss. He might reject your idea or he might acknowledge your point of view and try to work on this. Either way you have shown that you're interested and care about your job.



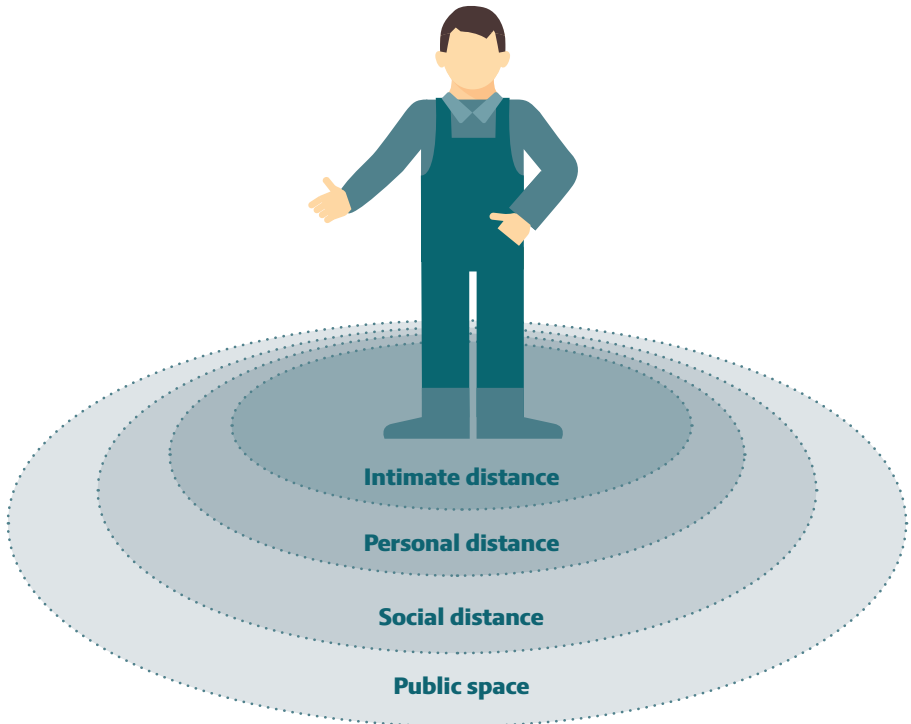
Let me help you!

In Denmark, we help each other at work. If lunch is coming up and I've finished my tasks, I will help you with your tasks. Then we can go and eat our lunch together. If you need help from your colleagues, don't be afraid to ask and feel free to talk to your colleagues about work challenges. Your colleagues will also turn to you for advice and help about work.



Personal space

In Denmark, we have something called “intimsfære”, which means our personal space. Some people like hugs, but others don't like to be touched. Your and other people's personal space must be respected. Start with a hand shake and get to know your new colleagues. Then you will learn how to talk and act around them.



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Any further questions?

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