

Language

Complete these sentences with the correct preposition:

<i>at</i>	<i>about</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>for</i>
<i>up</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>between</i>

1. There are lawyers who specialise sexual harassment cases.
2. Trying to sue sexual harassment is a waste time.
3. If you complain, you just get laughed
4. If you flirt the men in the office, you're asking for trouble.
5. My boss thinks he can chat all the women in the office.
6. Complaining the sexual advances of your boss takes a lot of courage.
7. You can pay compliments to a female colleague but there is a fine line being friendly and being overfamiliar.

Discussion

Work in pairs or small groups. Decide if the scenarios below describe a situation of sexual harassment. Should anything be done about each situation? If so, what?

1. Brian Lake often comes in to work with compliments. "Wow, I love your hair," he often says to the women in the office, or "Nice skirt." Some women have noticed that he sometimes stares at their breasts when he talks to them.
2. Susan Bellford gives the guys massages in the office during breaks. "She's got good hands," they often say. A couple of the married men don't seem totally comfortable with it and one gay man doesn't seem to like it at all, but accepts it so as not to 'make any waves.'
3. James Johnson touches bottoms – men's and women's. Where most people would simply smile, wink or give a pat on the back, James gives a pat on the bottom. "It's my way of being friendly," he says. What's interesting is that the men and women in the office seem to respect that. "James is James," says one woman. "He's just a playful guy. He doesn't mean anything by it."
4. Ken Patrick tells dirty jokes in the office. "The people in the office love it," he says with a smile. Not everybody, it seems. Some of the women have been seen leaving the office as soon as he starts saying, "Hey, have you heard the one about the ..."
5. Jennifer Stewart has a sexy body and is proud of it. She's been known to come to work in miniskirts and low-cut sweaters. "Why should I be ashamed of what God's given me?" she argues. "I don't think it makes anyone feel uncomfortable. I haven't heard a single complaint from any of the men in the office!"
6. Bill Swanson calls all the men in the office 'mate' or 'my man'. He calls all the women 'sweetie pie' or 'babe'.
7. Shelly Layman is very tactile. She always puts her hand on the arm of the person she's talking to and always makes a point of making direct eye contact.



Are you a tactile person? Do you touch people a lot? Has anyone ever objected to you touching them? How can you tell when someone does not want to be touched?