

Bullsh*t Jobs

What is a Bullsh*t Job?

A "bullsh*t job" is a form of employment that is so meaningless, unnecessary, or harmful that even the employee cannot justify its existence. It's often masked by corporate jargon or bureaucratic systems, leaving workers feeling unfulfilled, confused, or demoralized. The concept was originally proposed in a 2013 article by the anthropologist and activist David Graeber.

The Impact of Bullsh*t Jobs

Emotional Toll: People in these roles often suffer from depression, anxiety, and a loss of self-worth due to the lack of meaning in their work.

Wasted Potential: Time and talent that could be used productively are squandered, impacting overall societal progress.

Systemic Waste: Bullsh*t jobs create inefficiencies in businesses, government agencies, and other organizations, wasting resources and stifling innovation.

15%

of employees worldwide feel engaged in their work.¹

60%

of work time is spent on "work about work," like redundant meetings and admin tasks.²

60%

of existing jobs have been identified as having potential for automation.³

Listen to a Primer Podcast by
Srsly Wrong



<https://srslywrong.com/podcast/ep-153-bullshit-jobs-w-david-graeber/>

Read Bullsh*t Jobs by David
Graeber (Free PDF)



<https://cominsitu.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/david-graeber-bullshit-jobs-a-theory-1.pdf>

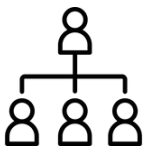
1. Gallup. *State of the Global Workplace: 2023 Report*. Gallup, 2023, <https://www.gallup.com/workplace/349484/state-of-the-global-workplace-2023-report.aspx>.
2. Workfront. *The State of Work Report 2020*. Workfront, 2020, <https://www.workfront.com/resources/state-of-work-report-2020>.
3. McKinsey Global Institute. *A Future That Works: Automation, Employment, and Productivity*. McKinsey & Company, 2017, <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/a-future-that-works-automation-employment-and-productivity>.

Do I Have a Bullsh*t Job?

Do you feel pressure to maintain a facade of productivity?	
Is your work mostly busywork (e.g., filling out forms, attending meetings that go nowhere)?	
Do you feel like if your job disappeared, nobody would notice or care?	
Do you spend more time on paperwork than actual work?	
Is there little to no opportunity for creative thinking or innovation in your role?	
Do you often feel stressed about deadlines that seem arbitrary or unnecessary?	
Are you involved in projects that seem to have no clear purpose or goals?	
Do you have coworkers who also seem disillusioned or uninterested in their roles?	
Have you noticed that your job could easily be automated?	
Do you think you have a bullsh*t job?	

If you checked the last box or 3 or more other boxes, you might have a bullsh*t job!

Types of Bullsh*t Jobs



Flunkies

Jobs that exist just to make others look or feel important.



Goons

Jobs that exist in sectors that create or maintain demand for things that otherwise wouldn't exist.



Duct Tapers

Jobs that exist solely to fix problems that could be avoided.



Box Tickers

Jobs created to give the appearance that something is being done when nothing is happening.



Taskmasters

Jobs that exist to supervise people who don't need supervision.