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The "Different Perspectives" Newsletter

It can be fun to step back and look at the world from a different angle. Here, we step back and look at commonly used words in business and life, ask a provocative question, and see what others are doing differently by applying a different lens on life. I hope you enjoy "Different Perspectives" and that you begin to step back when needed and observing what else is possible.

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Word Choices

Fun /fuhn/, noun/verb/adjective. Def - something that provides mirth or amusement. Joke, kid. Of or relating to fun, especially to social fun.

I recently came across several businesses that named one of their core values as "Fun". Sounds like a great place to work, right? Maybe. It all depends on the interpretation of what "fun" means. In curiosity, I Googled "fun" and core values and found that some major companies have fun as a core value and it works! As you did deeper into the search engine's results, there have been other companies that have had to move away from the word "fun" because of various reasons.

What does "fun" mean to you and your company and life? It can mean to enjoy your workplace and co-workers and to be playful. Fun can also be silly and can involve games and teasing, but with today's HR issues in companies, that type of fun may need to be reigned in to make a safe work environment.

Work can be stressful and hard so fun is a logical value to hold onto in the workplace to make the nearly 1/3 of your day go well. We want to enjoy where we work and who we

work with, just make sure that everyone understands the game.

In life, one thing I am hearing and seeing in clients is that "all work and no play makes XXX a dull man/woman" to play off that famous phrase many of us grew up with. We all need joy and happiness in our lives, especially when the news cycles are not providing that for us. I encourage all of you to consider what is fun, how you can keep that alive in your life, and what it means to you and your associates in life.

Question of the Week

When working to make the most of your life and to improve your days, consider these questions of the week:

1. Honestly, what percentage of my day/week is doing a "fun" activity?
2. How can I increase my "fun" factor?
3. What is my definition of "fun" and how does that relate to my co-workers and associates in life?

Lessons from the Camino

A while back I wrote about my trip in Spain and how it seemed that at nearly every town or stop I had, there was always a celebration or fiesta going on. Even with midnight fireworks that weren't really welcome to a tired pilgrim. This week's word on "fun" brought me back to that trip and how I feel the Spaniards have got some things figured out that we Americans have not - Fun!

The celebrations with the community were infectious and palpable. They would dress up in similar outfits which I can only guess were related to their neighborhoods or families. Regardless, they were having a blast with each other and their communities and the smiles were stretched from ear to ear. That made me a bit jealous of something we are missing in the US...fun.

During Covid, our neighbors would gather on our front lawn, 6 ft apart of course, in our folding chairs, cocktails, and conversations. It was expected and it was fun! As the Covid restrictions lifted and life got back to the new normal that we all have seemed to adjust to, the lawn parties became few and far between. Trying to plan them involved several emails and calendar coordinators to come to an agreement often several weeks

in advance. What happened to spontaneity?

Lessons learned on the Camino - be spontaneous, be community-minded and centered, be fun more often.

Did You Know?

According to [Paramount](#), the Gen Z generation is shifting the idea of fun and surveys showed:

81% of young adults agree that making fun a part of life is important

36% use fun to bond with others

25% use fun to explore something new, and

According to a [Chase](#) survey, 97% of people think fun is important in daily life, yet only 53% of people say they have fun on a regular basis.

What is going on here? I think we need a reboot, or a fiesta.



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