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Smile, show your face, please the boss

Jay Remer, [Financial Post](#)
Published: Saturday, April 11, 2009

Dear Etiquette Guy: I have to go to a corporate cocktail reception and I am reluctant to do so. My boss will be disappointed if I don't go. What's the best way to get through this?

Heels Dug-In

Dear H. D.: If you've decided you must go, then my advice to you is to go with gusto. Dress very smartly and make an entrance by standing purposefully inside the door for a few extra seconds as you familiarize yourself with the room. Do not go straight to the bar, but introduce yourself to a small group of colleagues who seem to be engaged in an open conversation. After a short conversation, excuse yourself, get a beverage or snack (never both at the same time) and carry on to another group. Two tips: Always carry your glass in your left hand, keeping your right hand dry and free for shaking, and wear your name tag on your right shoulder. With the right attitude, you will likely meet some very interesting people. Above all, make the most of it. I'm sure others are not thrilled to be there either. Why not shine? - Jay Remer is the Etiquette Guy. He is trained and certified by the Protocol School of Washington as a consultant for corporate etiquette and international protocol. He lives in St. Andrews, N. B. E-mail your etiquette questions to jay@etiquetteguy.com and visit his Web site at etiquetteguy.com.

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