

Staying socially connected in the virtual workplace



If you're missing the magic of connecting with your team, here are 10 of our favorite ways to reclaim that camaraderie in the virtual workplace.

- 1 Call a friend.** Keep a list of your collaborators handy. On breaks between meetings, call one of them via FaceTime for a 5-minute unplanned catch-up.
 - 2 Think of Slack (or Teams) as the new hallway.** Have a #watercooler channel and encourage your team to post funny links, share personal stories, and wave hello. It takes 10 seconds to send a "good morning" DM to a colleague, but it can make their day. Or use the [Donut](#) app to randomly pair people up for a virtual coffee.
 - 3 Go for a virtual walk.** Schedule an informal 1:1. Then grab your headphones and a mask, and do the call while you both walk around your respective neighborhoods. If you see a beautiful flower or creative chalk art, snap a picture and text it to your colleague while you're chatting.
 - 4 Create a shared Spotify playlist with your team.** Encourage everyone to add their favorite songs, then play it as background during a virtual coffee or at the beginning of your virtual team meetings.
 - 5 Have lunch together apart.** The simplest way to do that is to schedule a team catch-up (if you're in the same time zone) and encourage everyone to bring their lunch. To deepen the experience, you can share a recipe or even send the ingredients to everyone and have a cooking party over Zoom. An iPad propped up on some cookbooks allows everyone to chat as they cook.
 - 6 Play games.** From [Animal Crossing](#) to [Words with Friends](#) there's something for everyone. Use the #watercooler Slack channel to see who wants to play, then get connected and have fun together.
 - 7 Learn together.** Have a #learning Slack channel to share thought provoking TED talks, articles, and books. Host an optional time to get together and share insights about the content.
 - 8 Embrace your colleague's whole environment.** When you're on a call and see a teenager in the background, a cat on the desk, or a favorite book on the shelf, pause to say hello or ask a question.
 - 9 Learn from organizations that were designed to be fully virtual.** There are some great ideas [here](#) and [here](#).
- Finally, and probably most importantly:
- 10 Be fully present in your meetings.** Through deep listening and authentic engagement, you can forge bonds in every encounter.



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