UP Skills for Work

When to use creativity and innovation at work

When you use creativity and innovation skills, you can improve your work life. But it's not always the right time or place to get creative. It's good to know when to try something new, and when to follow the rules.

For each work situation below, decide whether you think it's time to try something new or stick to the rules. Put a checkmark in the column you chose, and write down some reasons why you chose that option. If you think both options could work, add checkmarks and reasons for both.

Meet Malee

Malee works at a shipping company. She notices that the company always uses plastic mailing bags. Malee thinks the company could save money by using cardboard boxes, and it would be better for the environment. When Malee asks her coworker why the company uses plastic bags, he says, "I don't know. It's just the way it's always been."

Try something new ☐	Stick to the rules ☐
Why should Malee try something new? • •	Why should Malee stick to the rules? • •

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Meet Laurence

Laurence just got hired as a plumber's apprentice. His boss tells him to always use plumber's tape when he's fixing pipes. Laurence thinks that duct tape could work just as well. He also wants to try using silicone caulking to seal a pipe joint instead of tape.

Try something new ☐	Stick to the rules ☐
Why should Laurence try something new? • •	Why should Laurence stick to the rules? • •

Meet Biyu

Biyu works as an interior designer. One of her clients hires her to design his living room. He gives her a list of paint colours and furniture styles he likes. But he also says, "You have complete creative freedom. I trust you!"

Try something new ☐	Stick to the rules ☐
Why should Biyu try something new? • •	Why should Biyu stick to the rules? • •