

Testimonial for an Executive Coach

My coach can be a right pain in the backside! I thought coaches were supposed to be good listeners. As soon I was into my stride in our first session, listing my urgent 'to-do' list he interrupts me. Can you believe it? – he says that since my recent promotion to the Board I might want to ditch the 'to-do' list altogether and think about who in my team could be entrusted to complete the tasks? Well as I hardly know any of them the answer is obvious – no-one! Then he says 'how do you think would be a good way to get to know them better?' That's easy I said – give me 26 hours in every day!

And another thing – I deliberately chose him as a coach because he had no experience in my line of business – the HR Director was pleased because that demonstrated my confidence in 'getting an outside perspective' but really I wanted to show the coach he couldn't teach me anything about my industry. The irritating thing is that every time we talk about a problem at work whether it's technical or people related, he seems to know exactly what the issue is and as we chat it through, I seem to know instinctively the right path to take. I swear he could do my job as well as me but I would die first before I told him that.

At the moment we are looking at my strengths and how to maximise these in my new role on the Board. What about the things I've never been good at I ask him? Shouldn't I try to improve myself? Isn't that what it's all about? So he says: Do you need to be good at everything in your new role? What about the person you've just replaced – what were the things she did well that you want to do? How would I know, I said? You could always ask her he says; after all she is the new CEO!

If I was asked to sum up my coach in four words it would be: "Too Clever by Half"

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