

“HAVE TO” OR “GET TO”?

By Jon Gordon

Who knew that two simple words could change one’s mindset, perspective, and approach to work and life? Just two words have the potential to enhance joy, productivity, performance and change a complaining voice to an appreciative heart.

So often we say things like, “I have to take the kids to practice.” “I have to go to this meeting.” “I have to finish this project.” “I have to go to work today.” “I have to take care of this customer.” “I have to share this new information with my team.” “I have to see my family this weekend.”

We act as if we don’t have a choice. As if we are imprisoned by a paycheck and the expectations of a world that forces us to do thing we don’t want to do. But in reality, we do have a choice. We can choose our attitude and our actions. We can choose how we view our life and work. We can realize that every day is a gift. It’s not about what we have to do—it’s about what we get to do.

We get to live this life while so many like Tim Russert and my Mom have left this world far too early. We get to drive in traffic while so many are too sick to drive a car. We get to go to a job while so many are unemployed. We get to raise our children even if they drive us nuts at times. We get to interact with our employees and customers and make a difference in their lives. We get to use our gifts and talents to make a product or provide a service. We get to eat three meals a day while millions of people are starving. We get to work on projects, answer phone calls, serve customers, participate in meetings, design, create, share, sell, lead, and suit up every day for the game of life.

Yes, there will be challenges and life isn’t easy, but each day we wake up we get another opportunity to make today better than yesterday and tomorrow better than today. We get to uplift, inspire,

encourage, and impact others. We get to live this life. Let’s make the most of it by remembering that life is a gift, not an obligation.

To read more about “Get to” or “Have to,” read *The No Complaining Rule: Positive Ways to Deal with Negativity at Work*.

Jon Gordon’s best-selling books and talks have inspired readers and audiences around the world. His principles have been put to the test by numerous NFL, NBA, and college coaches and teams, Fortune 500 companies, school districts, hospitals, and non-profits. He is the author of *The Wall Street Journal* bestseller *The Energy Bus*, *The No Complaining Rule*, *Training Camp*, *The Shark and The Goldfish*, *Soup*, *The Seed*, and his latest, *The Positive Dog*. Jon and his tips have been featured on *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *Fox and Friends*, and in numerous magazines and newspapers.



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