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What could possibly be more stressful than getting a divorce? Being promoted.

Climbing the corporate ladder was cited most frequently as life's most difficult event, beating out calling it quits with a spouse, adjusting to a relocation or grieving a death by nearly 20 percent of business leaders in a recent survey.

Although a promotion is usually cause for a slap on the back, it forces an employee to deal with more office politics, greater job complexity and increased reliance on others, said Matt Paese of Development Dimensions International, which conducted the study.

Despite the hand-wringing promotions can provoke, almost half of those surveyed said a move into a leadership position positively affected their personal life.

The online survey was conducted among nearly 800 U.S. and foreign business leaders.

Bring cookies, cut the prattle

If you want to drive your co-workers crazy at a business meeting, interrupt someone, answer your cell phone or fall asleep. If you really want them to curse your name, drag them into a meeting and blather away.

Disorganized, rambling presentations are workers' greatest source of frustration at meetings, a new survey reports.

"If you're going to ask someone for time, make sure you're using their time like you would use your time," said Jeff Resnick of Opinion Research USA, which conducted the survey.

The random telephone survey of approximately 1,000 people was conducted in mid-April.

Summer casual

It's hot outside, and that new outfit of yours is the perfect combination of comfy and cool. But is it office-appropriate?

Business etiquette expert Mary Crane says dress codes often are tested in hotter months. And, with summer just around the corner, she says now is the time to make sure office dress remains dressy enough, even in warmer weather.

"If you would even consider wearing any particular item to the beach or to a picnic or to mow the lawn, it's probably not appropriate to wear to the office," Crane said.

To make sure your summertime dress is more stylish than scandalous, heed the following workplace wardrobe guidelines, Crane said:

*Check the culture of your organization. What is acceptable at a hip Internet start-up may be inappropriate at a conservative law firm.

*For women, skirts, dresses or shorts should rise no higher than 2 inches above the knee.

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*Plunging necklines have no place in the office. The same goes for flip-flops. Women may be able to get away with a strappy sandal.

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