

## My First Job

“I’m looking for someone who is willing to do any job and won’t complain,” she said in answer to my final question. I was proud of myself for making it through the interview without throwing up from being so nervous. “I am going to tell you right now that you are hired,” those are the words I never thought I would hear. I couldn’t imagine my interview for my first job would go over as well as it did. After setting a date to fill out paperwork, I left. I called my mom almost immediately to share the great news with her!

The first three days I was in training, watching videos, taking quizzes, making sure I learned about everything I could possibly need to know. On my fourth day I learned all about the features of the register, how to take orders, how to fix an order and all the small details I need to know. I also learned what other duties the cashier is supposed to do when there are no customers to serve at all. It became very clear to me that I was not a real part of the team just yet. Everybody else knew one another, and they got along really well from what I could see; I was just a newbie. I was slower, I hadn’t learned exactly where everything was or how to make certain things or who everyone was. I was just starting out and I was on my own to learn from my mistakes.

After two days of hands on training it was time for me to work the register on my own. Taking a few orders alone occasionally when I was training didn’t feel too bad because I knew that if I messed up someone would be there to save me. That person had become my safety blanket. It felt safer and although I knew I would have to do it on my own eventually, I was apprehensive about doing it on my own.

This day however, was not like that at all. There was nobody to save me if I got too flustered or if I was going to slow. Today I stood, alone. Both feet firmly planted, knees and

hands trembling. Patiently waiting to take my first order all by myself. The smell of fried food had begun to fill the air of the store. The sound of burgers sizzling on the grill, fries being dropped into the fryer, and ice cream machine turning filled the quietness that was about to be interrupted with people. The doors began opening and closing letting the outside air in, it was THAT time of the day...the lunch rush had started.

I was anxious beyond belief, it was as clear as water to the customers and myself as I found customers trying to comfort my shaking hands and voice as I spoke and handed out change. The only way I was going to learn was from my own mistakes and I did. I messed up, a lot, but I learned. I have learned day after day how to improve myself and how to improve my work for myself and the customers. I slowly became a part of all the team work that went on. I learned how to do everything by myself without asking a lot of questions. I don't have to have things pointed out to me or be shown how to make something. I know how to do that on my own. I have gotten to know the many repeat customers that. I don't always have to ask for names.

I have overcome my fear of messing up a customer's order. I am no longer jittery when I speak to the customers about their meals or something other than taking their order. I am not nearly as timid as I was that first day on my own. I have become more comfortable with my working environment which has helped me to be more outspoken. I have learned the habits of people I work with and watched the habits of customers. It's very interesting because several people won't ever make eye contact when you are taking their order. I have seen how others interact and I have learned how to interact with my coworkers. I am no longer looking at my coworkers from behind the glass window with all the other newbies. I really collaborate with them and create my own habits. The relationships some of them hold with each other are genuine friendships that will last, while others are solely relationships created because of work.

From my first interview to working there for a month, I have learned and retained a lot of information. I have learned everything from taking orders, making fries, preparing food and getting the store ready for opening. The quick change over from newbie to crew member has been an adventure, but it is an experience I will not forget. My first job has taught me a lot of lessons and shown me how I can grow and change with my environment to do the job that I have been assigned. Also, I have learned how to find a way to work with people that I have not worked with before. Working hard, learning, and adapting quickly are all qualities my mom has tried so many years to help me learn, it has paid off. These qualities have helped me turn a learning experience into a job I enjoy doing.