

Sam:

I'm Sam, I'm 17, and I'm an apprentice electrician. I started three months ago at (beep) with Jade. Yeah, I like it. The fellas here are good blokes. Well, most of the time, anyway. Uh, they're pretty big on the razz, and they put you through the wringer a bit. You sorta have to earn your stripes.

Sam:

I've had a go at pretty much everything so far. I reckon it'll help out heaps when I get to trade school. Yeah, I've definitely learnt when it's time to knuckle down and work and that, uh, you can (laughs) loosen up a bit at the pub.

Sam:

Yep, we go the pub on a Friday night. Once you get there, the fellas relax a little and you can, uh, you know, you can sort of get to know 'em a bit. And I really like that. It makes it a lot easier to work with people when you, you feel like you get along with them and they actually know you and, and like you. Yeah.

Sam:

The boss sends text messages about work stuff and emails. Other communication? Yeah, if there's funny videos or stuff like that from the fellas, there's a bit of a group chat that they added me to. It was a bit of a laugh sometimes. Um, no. I wouldn't want my girlfriend to see that chat. Some of the older blokes have some pretty old school ideas about women. Yeah.

Jade:

Hi, I'm Jade. I'm 18. I'm an apprentice electrician. Uh, I started at (beep) with Sam about three months ago. Yeah, it's good. I don't mind the jobs we get to do, um, and I can see it'll be more interesting once I've got more training. At the moment, the first-year stuff is a bit limiting.

Jade:

Yeah, sometimes it does feel like the guys are, like, scared, uh, to give me jobs. It's like they think I'm gonna break (laughs) or something. It feels like everyone is more comfortable giving Sam, y- the other apprentice, the more interesting work. Honestly, Sam does different stuff to me. Like, the guys ask him to do most jobs, whereas I don't get to challenge myself because they think I'm not strong enough to do the heavy lifting or to get into the roof or the tricky places.

Jade:

I don't know what trade school will be like. Sometimes I don't feel comfortable asking questions here because when you're an apprentice, you're on the absolute bottom, and I don't know who I can go to for help.

Jade:

I'm kind of included, but sometimes it feels like it's 'cause they have to, not 'cause they actually want to. Like, I know they're sharing shit on their phones, but apparently don't want me to see. On one hand, I want to be included and make friends, but I also don't wanna have to pretend that I think that that shit's funny.

Jade:

It's a bit awkward when I go down to the pub, um, so I stopped going. It doesn't feel like they want me there, actually. It's hard to know if it's a gender thing. Like, who knows? Maybe it's just me. I don't know which is worse.