



You Got the Job. Now Use Your Mentor Well.

Starting strong means learning quickly, asking good questions, and building trust early.

- **Prepare before day one.** Talk through what you know about the role, manager, team, schedule, and expectations. Go over what still feels unclear so you know what to ask, confirm, or pay attention to early.
- **Understand what matters in the beginning.** Every role has different expectations. Use conversations to sort through what to learn first, where to focus, and how to show reliability before trying to do everything at once.
- **Bring early experiences to your Mentor.** Use specific moments from the first few weeks, a confusing assignment, surprising feedback, a difficult conversation, or something you are unsure how to handle, to figure out what to ask, try, or pay attention to next.
- **Learn the rhythm.** Talk through how people communicate, use meetings, share feedback, define urgency, and show initiative in the new workplace.
- **Build the manager relationship early.** Talk through how to clarify expectations, share progress, ask for feedback, and raise questions before small issues become bigger challenges.
- **Close the loop.** Trust is built through small moments: confirming what you heard, following up when you said you would, sharing updates before being asked, and clarifying next steps. Use your Mentor to think through where better follow-through or communication could help you build credibility right away.
- **Pay attention to what gives you confidence and what drains it.** A new role can teach you a lot about your strengths, stress points, communication style, and areas for growth.
- **Turn challenges into next steps.** When something feels hard, use the conversation to slow down, separate facts from assumptions, consider options, and decide what to do next.
- **Keep a longer view.** As you settle in, discuss what this role can help you build: skills, habits, relationships, industry knowledge, and a clearer sense of direction.
- **Bring one of these to your next meetings:**
 - One thing that went well.
 - One thing that felt unclear.
 - One piece of feedback or signal you are noticing.
 - One relationship you want to build.
 - One challenge you want to think through.
 - One skill or habit you want to develop.