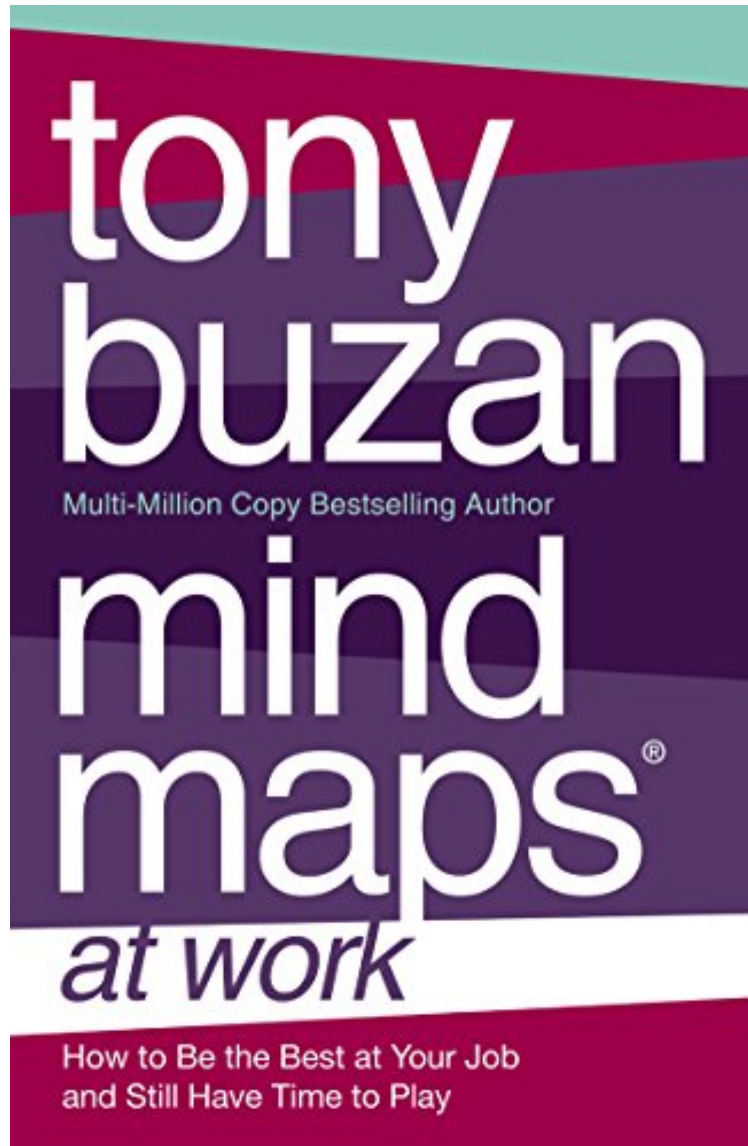


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Mind Maps at Work: How to be the best at work and still have time to play

Tony Buzan

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Tony Buzan : Mind Maps at Work: How to be the best at work and still have time to play before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mind Maps at Work: How to be the best at work and still have time to play:

85 of 85 people found the following review helpful. Mind-mapping alone is not going to help you solve all your problems. You need a smorgasbord of visual tools!By Lee Say KengMind Maps at Work: How to Be the Best at Your

Job and Still Have Time to Play

By Tony Buzan

Undoubtedly, Tony Buzan should be credited for starting the ball rolling for mind-mapping in the late seventies/early eighties. He certainly took a brave stance. Whether he originated the idea is still debatable, because I strongly believe that the clustering technique (as originally envisaged by Gabrielle Rico in her debut book, 'Writing the Natural Way', in the early eighties) is the precursor to the mind-mapping technique. I still owned the original releases of two books written by Tony Buzan, in which he introduced mind-mapping during those days:- 'Make the Most of Your Mind';- 'Use Both Sides of Your Brain'; Going back into these two books comparing them with the current book under review, I am very surprised to note that there are not much differences from the intellectual standpoint. Despite the fact that more than three decades had already transpired, there are no new enhancements for readers, except, may be readers now get to see mind-maps in colour. Tony Buzan is still pursuing the dogmatic approach of putting every issue from a centralised position viewing all the connected issues in a radially-outward perspective. Beyond this singular aspect, he doesn't have any new ideas to share with readers. Sad to say, Tony Buzan is clearly running out of steam. All his new subsequent books still follow doggedly the same old formula. In fact, most of his new books are often rehashed /or mildly expanded from the foregoing two books. Some of his disciples who have written similar books even follow the master's footsteps. I am not saying mind-mapping is obsolete. It still works, but it has severe limitations. In today's chaotic business world, not every issue can be centralised in perspective. Even in the educational arena, mind-mapping has its fair share of problems in application. Let me share with readers a true case in Singapore, as reported in the Straits Times, a local newspaper, a few years ago. According to the then-principal of Raffles Girls' School, a top-ranked secondary school, the school invested heavily in getting students to learn apply mind-mapping in their studies. Every teacher student was very excited. Every student was proud of her colourful mind-maps. However, when the final exams came, all the girls just abandoned mind-mapping went back to the old habit of note-making. To them, mind-mapping didn't work as expected. My own analysis is this: you can only apply mind-mapping to some subjects in the academic curriculum, but not all. For example, fish-bone diagramming time-lines (or transitive-order diagramming, an expanded variation) would be more effective for history lessons. A story grid would serve English Literature more effectively. Concept maps V-diagramming would be more ideal for navigating science subjects. Coming back to the current book under review, I wish to say this: mind-mapping alone is not going to help you solve all your problems. The mind-maps just look good on paper in most instances. You need a smorgasbord of visual tools! Just imagine you only have a screw driver in your tool-box. For readers who are keen to explore beyond traditional mind-mapping, they should take a look at the following resources:- 'Thinking Visually: Business Applications of Fourteen Core Diagrams', by Malcolm Craig;- 'Rapid Problem Solving with Post-It Notes', by David Straker;- 'The Power of 2 x 2 Matrix: Using 2 x 2 Thinking to Solve Business Problems', by Alex Lowly Phil Hood;- 'Visible Thinking: Unlocking Causal Mapping for Practical Business Results' by John Bryson;- 'Beyond Words', by Milli Sonneman;- 'The Marketer's Visual Toolkit', by Terry Richey; In the realm of strategic planning, I reckon 'Reinventing Communication: A Guide to Using Visual Language for Planning' by Larry Raymond would be an excellent resource. Even Nancy Margulies' mind-scapes as envisaged in her 'Mapping InnerSpace' /or 'Visual Thinking: Tools for Mapping Ideas' can help you deliberately move away from Tony Buzan's standard routines. In other words, you can start your idea from anywhere you like. For readers who just want a quick broad understanding of visual thinking perspectives, I would recommend Robert Horn's 'Visual Language: Global Communication for the 21st Century.' 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Use Mind Maps and TEFACS to organize your business plan... By Maxim Masiutin Like other books by Tony Buzan, "Mind Maps at Work" starts with the description of human brain, its boundless capabilities, and then reiterates Buzan's favourite techniques like Mind Maps, TEFACS, Radiant Thinking, etc. If you've read other books by Tony Buzan, you may find parts of this book monotonous, uninteresting and not engaging your interest. But if you are looking how to apply Mind Maps to your work environment, or just thinking how to be more efficient at your job, change career or start your own business, deliver excellent presentations with confidence, stand up for yourself and your ideas, be a key player at work, lead your team to excellence, than you will find worthy thoughts throughout this book. It shows how to use Mind Maps and TEFACS to organize your business plan, access the progress of your plans and identify areas for improvement, create and update your CV in a colorful and visually arresting way, and so on. Although in some places I've found this book a little bit dull, it is definitely worth attention! This is a book that suggests purposely slowing down and smelling the roses could actually boost productivity in today's 24/7 world. I would also recommend "Slack" by Tom Demarco in addition to this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If your only tool is a hammer . . . By Jim in Baltimore then every problem looks like a nail. For Mr. Buzan, the hammer in the Mind Map. I was disappointed with the book. While I accept the concept, it could have been presented in 20 pages rather than 211. According to Mr. Buzan, the solution to every issue (at work, bullies, better personal relationships, effective presentations, etc.) lies in the use of the Mind Map. When dealing with fictitious examples to illustrate his points, he presents elaborate Mind Maps. When addressing real-world examples in his book, I can remember not one accompanied by a presentation of the mapping applied to the solution. That suggest to me that possibly in actual application, companies use the mind map process as a component of a much larger process. That is never even suggested in the text. Life should be as easy, and with such simple solutions as presented by Mr. Buzan. I accept, and

use, the concept of Mind Mapping. However, Mr. Buzan over-simplifies too many broad concepts in stating they can be resolved with his process.

Mind Maps at Work takes a fresh and exuberant look at how Mind Maps can keep you one step ahead of your colleagues at work. Full of practical tips, exercises and inspiring case studies of people from all career backgrounds, it will help you unlock your reservoirs of creativity and find the fulfilment at work you know you deserve. Tony Buzan is the world-renowned inventor of Mind Maps who has helped hundreds of highly successful international businesses and organisations. In this inspiring new book he shows how you too can use Mind Maps to achieve greater satisfaction and success at work AND still have time to play. Mind Maps help you tap into your brain's full potential by using a combination of colour, image and association. Mind Maps at Work will help you:

- Brainstorm and solve the toughest of problems
- Set goals and achieve them
- Reinvent your career, business strategy or brand
- Pinpoint your priorities and multi-task with ease
- Deliver excellent presentations with confidence
- Maintain work-life balance
- Bring out the best in yourself and others