

Great Podcasts for HR Executives



I love my podcasts! Here are just a few I've listened to I know you will enjoy.



TED Talks

[10 WAYS TO HAVE A BETTER CONVERSATION](#)

When your job hinges on how well you talk to people, you learn a lot about how to have conversations — and that most of us don't converse very well. Celeste Headlee has worked as a radio host for decades, and she knows the ingredients of a great conversation: Honesty, brevity, clarity and a healthy amount of listening. In this insightful talk, she shares 10 useful rules for having better conversations. "Go out, talk to people, listen to people," she says. "And, most importantly, be prepared to be amazed.

[WHAT MAKES US FEEL GOOD ABOUT OUR WORK?](#)

What motivates us to work? Contrary to conventional wisdom, it isn't just money. But it's not exactly joy either. It seems that most of us thrive by making constant progress and feeling a sense of purpose. Behavioral economist Dan Ariely presents two eye-opening experiments that reveal our unexpected and nuanced attitudes toward meaning in our work.

[THE PUZZLE OF MOTIVATION](#)

Career analyst Dan Pink examines the puzzle of motivation, starting with a fact that social scientists know but most managers don't: Traditional rewards aren't always as effective as we think. Listen for illuminating stories — and maybe, a way forward.

[LEARNING FROM DIRTY JOBS](#)

Mike Rowe, the host of "Dirty Jobs," tells some compelling (and horrifying) real-life job stories. Listen for his insights and observations about the nature of hard work, and how it's been unjustifiably degraded in society today.

[AS WORK GETS MORE COMPLEX, 6 RULES TO SIMPLIFY](#)

Why do people feel so miserable and disengaged at work? Because today's businesses are increasingly and dizzyingly complex — and traditional pillars of management are obsolete, says Yves Morieux. So, he says, it falls to individual employees to navigate the rabbit's warren of interdependencies. In this energetic talk, Morieux offers six rules for "smart simplicity." (Rule One: Understand what your colleagues actually do.)

[HOW TO MAKE WORK-LIFE BALANCE WORK](#)

Work-life balance, says Nigel Marsh, is too important to be left in the hands of your employer. Marsh lays out an ideal day balanced between family time, personal time and productivity — and offers some stirring encouragement to make it happen.

[HOW GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE ACTION](#)

Simon Sinek has a simple but powerful model for inspirational leadership — starting with a golden circle and the question "Why?" His examples include Apple, Martin Luther King, and the Wright brothers.

[WHY YOU WILL FAIL TO HAVE A GREAT CAREER](#)

In this funny and blunt talk, Larry Smith pulls no punches when he calls out the absurd excuses people invent when they fail to pursue their passions.



HBR Ideacast

[HOW TO SAY NO TO MORE WORK](#)

Karen Dillon, author of the “HBR Guide to Office Politics”, explains how to gracefully decline excessive projects—and thankless tasks.

[YOUR COWORKERS SHOULD KNOW YOUR SALARY](#)

Pay transparency is actually a way better system than pay secrecy. David Burkus, professor at Oral Roberts University and author of “Under New Management,” explains why.

[BE A SUPERBOSS](#)

Lorne Michaels, Bill Walsh, Alice Waters—all have had a disproportionate impact in their respective industries through their knack for collecting and inspiring great talent. We hear how they do it from Sydney Finkelstein, the Steven Roth Professor of Management in Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business and the author of “Superbosses: How Exceptional Leaders Manage the Flow of Talent”.

[BEING HAPPIER AT WORK](#)

Emma Seppälä, Stanford researcher and author of “The Happiness Track,” explains the proven benefits of a positive outlook; simple ways to increase your sense of well-being; and why it’s not about being ecstatic or excited all the time.

[SIMPLE RULES FOR CREATING GREAT PLACES TO WORK](#)

Gareth Jones, author of “Why Should Anyone Work Here?”, explains the things managers know, but struggle to do.

[BUILDING HEALTHY TEAMS](#)

Mary Shapiro, author of the “HBR Guide to Leading Teams” and professor at Simmons, on dealing with conflict and other issues.

[TEST-TAKING COMES TO THE OFFICE](#)

Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic, author of the HBR article “Ace the Assessment,” explores the rising practice of using tests in hiring and promotion decisions.

[CAN HR BE SAVED?](#)

Peter Cappelli, author of the HBR article, “Why We Love to Hate HR...and What HR Can Do About It,” on perhaps the least popular function in business.

[ARE ROBOTS REALLY COMING FOR OUR JOBS?](#)

James Bessen, economist and former software executive, on what we can learn from 19th century mill workers about innovation, wages, and technology.

[EVERNOTE’S CEO ON THE NEW WAYS WE WORK](#)

Phil Libin discusses the impact of technology—from Microsoft Word to wearables—on our collaboration and productivity.



Stanford E Corner

[WHY COMPANY CULTURE IS CRUCIAL](#)

Dharmesh Shah, co-founder and CTO at the marketing and sales software firm HubSpot, distills his 128-slide presentation on company culture down to its essence, describing it as a business's "operating system" that lets people do their best work. Shah says entrepreneurs must create a company culture they love, because one will eventually emerge no matter what.

[SIMPLE RULES FOR A COMPLEX WORLD](#)

Kathleen Eisenhardt, a professor of management science and engineering at Stanford, explains the advantages of developing simple rules for business and life, sharing examples from industries ranging from startups to sports and entertainment. Eisenhardt, who teaches in Stanford's School of Engineering, co-wrote the 2015 book "Simple Rules: How to Thrive in a Complex World."



Freakonomics

[THE TRUE STORY OF THE GENDER PAY GAP](#)

Discrimination can't explain why women earn so much less than men. If only it were that easy.

[HOW MANY DOCTORS DOES IT TAKE TO START A HEALTHCARE REVOLUTION?](#)

The practice of medicine has been subsumed by the business of medicine. This is great news for healthcare shareholders — and bad news for pretty much everyone else.

[HOW SAFE IS YOUR JOB?](#)

Economists preach the gospel of "creative destruction," whereby new industries — and jobs — replace the old ones. But has creative destruction become too destructive?

[THE COBRA EFFECT](#)

When you want to get rid of a nasty pest, one obvious solution comes to mind: just offer a cash reward. But be careful — because nothing backfires quite like a bounty.



James Altucher

[DAVE ASPREY: HOW TO BULLETPROOF YOUR LIFE](#)

I don't diet. It's a distraction. My rule is simple. Don't eat when you're not hungry. But that's not always easy. Nothing is always easy. With... [GO TO EPISODE](#)

[JIM KWIK: BRAIN COACH AND SUPERHERO](#)

A lot of people call Jim Kwik a brain expert. On today's show, he gives us a sneak peek into his seminars that teach people how to optimize their brains... [GO TO EPISODE](#)



Vistage Executive Street

[MOTIVATING THE MILLENNIAL WORKFORCE](#)

When it comes to understanding the needs of working millennials, [CARA PROGRAM](#) CEO Maria Kim has a lot to bring to her [PEERS AT VISTAGE](#). By working with a nonprofit that specializes in workforce development for the homeless and poverty-stricken, Kim has come to understand that in order to keep millennials happy and challenged, she has to understand what they're passionate about.

[MAJOR PITFALLS TO AVOID WHEN GIVING AND RECEIVING FEEDBACK](#)

Feedback is a valuable gift that when delivered and received properly can lead to extraordinary success. For years, leaders have been taught to provide feedback in the form of a sandwich. Leaders learned to start with something positive, then provide the criticism, and then finish with something else positive to the recipient. Alison Whitmire, CEO Learning In Action explains that following this feedback method is just really bad advice.



Don Phin, Esq.

And a 20 minute interview I did on [THE INSPIRED WORKFORCE](#)