

Ladies and gentlemen,

I stand before you today to say goodbye to a colleague, a mentor, and the only person who could ever make our morning meetings bearable, [Colleague's Name]. After [number] years of dodging responsibilities and perfecting the art of the coffee break, [Colleague's Name] is finally hanging up their office chair and heading into the wild unknown of retirement.

Let's take a moment to appreciate all that [Colleague's Name] has taught us. For instance, we've learned that it's completely acceptable to "accidentally" lose an important file when you've had too many spreadsheets for the day. We also learned how crucial it is to have a snack drawer that can rival a mini-mart's candy aisle.

[Colleague's Name], you'll know your impact here was unmatched when you spot employees eyeing your empty desk, wistfully longing for the unique desk plant you managed to keep alive all these years. You set a high standard by keeping office supplies mysteriously disappearing--who else could develop a magic trick of making pens vanish mid-meeting?

As you journey into retirement, remember all the wisdom you've bestowed upon us, and think fondly of us working away while you bask in the comfort of your pajamas until noon, and questioning why the alarm clock was ever invented.

So here's to [Colleague's Name], our irreplaceable workmate. May your days be filled with relaxation and your email inbox forever empty. Enjoy your well-earned retirement--you've made it! Don't forget to send us a postcard, or better yet, a new supply of pens!

Farewell and happy retirement!