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If you argued, both sides are at fault

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Dear Etiquette Guy: In my workplace, there is me, the boss and the other lady. The other lady is the boss's daughter-in-law. I have been working there for seven years now. And I had my first verbal fight with the daughter-in-law. It was about language issues. I have been enduring her ignorance for a while and had enough that day. We both went at it. Stuff was said not related to the original issue.

Now, she is not speaking to me and is ignoring me. I spoke with my boss and assured her I was not going to leave. She said to give it time as the other person is stubborn and does not like to admit she is wrong. What should I do?

Tessa Tussle

Dear T. T.: You are both at fault. Arguing is uncivilized and never solves anything. You both need to sit down and apologize. Perhaps you, as the senior employee, should initiate this conversation since you started the verbal fight.

It is important during your talk to explain how hurtful her remarks have been over the past while and you regret that your frustration got the better of you. It's possible she did not realize she was being hurtful. If her intent was to be rude, then it is up to the boss to settle this, as you two clearly can't - Jay Remer is the Etiquette Guy. He is trained and certified by the Protocol School of Washington as a consultant for corporate etiquette and international protocol. He lives in St. Andrews, N. B. E-mail your etiquette questions to jay@etiquetteguy.com and visit his Web site at www.etiquetteguy.com.

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