

Assistance for Free - 11-12-2009

by vcmorris - The Thin Pink Line Blog: women and work, women and leadership, women and careers, women and negotiation, women and money, work/life balance - <http://thethinpinkline.com>

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<http://thethinpinkline.com/2009/11/12/free-and-clear-assistance/>

There are small money savings that can be habit forming and profitable. Take directory assistance for example. Do you use it? We all have at some point and know it can be pricey to get that information.

Well, here's a number worth putting in your mobile phone or on your home phone speed dial: 1-800-GOOG-411. Instant gratification! You get *free* assistance with any phone number you need and the automated operator will even connect you.

The service has been around for a while – but like all good things – not everyone knows about it. And all of us could certainly benefit from using it. If you dial 411 from your mobile phone for telephone directory information, it can cost you \$1.49 or more per call (some carriers allow you to get up to three phone listings for that price).

1-800-GOOG-411 (which translates to 1-800-466-4411) is a totally free service that's especially great when you're on the road. Let's say you're heading to a meeting at an unfamiliar location and – even if you have your GPS guiding you – you don't have the phone number. Program 1-800-GOOG-411 into your phone's speed dial, hit the button, say where and what you're looking for and GOOG-411 will connect you.

Did I mention that it's free? Yes. But let me say it again. These days services that cost you nothing are too good not to know about and use.

Here's precisely how it works. You'll hear a voice at the other end saying: "City and State?" You respond. The voice then says: "Business, name or type of service?" You respond. The voice on the other end says: "Connecting" and the location you requested answers the phone. That's it. It's nationwide and – did I already say *it's free!*

You don't need a computer, an Internet connection or even the keypad on your phone or mobile device to use GOOG-411 because it's voice activated. So you can access it from any phone – mobile or landline – in any location at any time. All for – free. And if you're calling from a *mobile device* GOOG-411 can even send you a text message with more details and a map. Simply say "text message" or "map it".

Just a reminder – *you should not use* GOOG-411 if you need emergency help since the service isn't able to provide your location information to emergency providers. As always, if you have an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Here's to your health and wealth

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