

JOB INTERVIEW TIPS FOR TEENS

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So you've found a great job, applied for it and now it's time for the interview! How are those butterflies in your stomach? Not so good? It's OK, we're here to help. Here is some advice to help calm your nerves and get you prepared for your interview.

Don't be late for the interview!

Punctuality is very important when arriving to an interview. This is the first impression the employer gets, and if you're late, it gives the impression that you don't value the interviewer's time. Even arriving five minutes late can lose you the job - we're not kidding. Arriving 10-15 minutes early, on the other hand, will give you time to prepare. Be sure you have directions and you know how to get to your interview location. If you're unsure, go the day before to make sure you know how to get there.

Dress up

Keep your interview outfit casual, but not too casual. Showing up in jeans and a T-shirt may be comfy but doesn't give the best impression, even if that's what you'd be wearing on the job. Khakis and a nice collared shirt, or a tailored top and (not mini) skirt are always a good choice. If you're applying for a retail clothing store, avoid wearing clothing with a competitor's logo. A full suit is probably too much, unless you're applying for an office support job or a prestigious internship.

Prepare, prepare, prepare

Did I mention prepare? Know the company you are interviewing with and have questions ready for your interviewer. This shows the interviewer that you have an interest in the company. Keep in mind that it never hurts to practice. Make sure you know who you are and what skill set you possess. And always be yourself - you want them to hire the real you, not a fake version of you.

Be aware of your body language

When you're nervous, do you tend to rub your arm? Jiggle your foot? Or click a pen? You are going to drive the interviewer crazy if you do any of those things! At the job interview, do your best to keep still, sit up straight and look the interviewer in the eyes. You want to appear calm and in control.

Practice interview questions and answers

“Tell me a little about yourself.”

This is always a tough one, because you ask yourself, "What do they want to know?" Focus on your skills, abilities and your interests. The interviewer wants to know about you and what your plans are for the present and the future. Definitely don't start talking about your childhood, the music you like, your soccer trophies or anything else that's not relevant to the job. Remember to keep the answer brief, because it can set the tone for the rest of the interview.

“Why do you want to work for us?”

Here's your chance to tell the interviewer why you chose to apply for the job. Don't say because of the pay. This is your opportunity to talk about why you think you'd fit in really well and what you could bring to the team.

“What extracurricular activities do you participate in?”

This is your chance to talk about you and show your personality - but again, keep it short! Your extracurricular activities should reflect your best traits and your interests.

“Why should I hire you?”

Be honest. Let the interviewer know why you are the best for the job. This is your chance to sell yourself and set yourself apart from the other job candidates.