

Dress the Part

10 Interview Fashion Blunders to Keep You From Your Dream Job

*First impressions are everything. The truth is, an interview might just be your **only** opportunity to impress. Here are some common "fashion blunders" that job seekers make when getting ready for an interview.*

1. They Can Smell You Before They See You

When it comes to perfume or cologne, less is best. You never know when you will meet with someone who has allergies or is sensitive to fragrances. It's best to hold off on any fragranced products, at least for interview day.

2. The Painted Face Syndrome

Another good way to be remembered for the wrong reasons is to wear your "out on the town" makeup. Wearing makeup that is too showy will be distracting to the person interviewing you.

3. We Can't See Past the Tie

Your multi-colored fish tie will not send the impression you're trying to impart. Stick to conservative, solid color or limited design ties and leave the novelty pieces for an informal occasion.

4. The Noisemaker Effect

If you don't want your interviewer to be distracted while you are talking, it's best to steer clear of pockets full of change or oversized jewelry. Interviewers often meet with several individuals, many on the same day, and you do not want to give him or her any reason not to listen to you intently.

5. The Hair Speaks for Itself

Avoid hair dye and extreme styles. The same thing is true for hairstyles such as pigtails, the "tousled" look, hair that hangs in your eyes, or any other unkempt look.

6. Hey Gals, This Isn't a Nightclub

In the majority of interview situations, conservative is best. This means forgoing tight, short skirts and revealing blouses for an outfit that is more demure.

7. The Five O'clock Shadow

While companies have different policies on facial hair for men, looking neatly groomed is important in any situation. If you don't, take the time to shave in the morning. Nothing says, "I just rolled out of bed," like a five o'clock shadow.

8. Hey Guys, This Isn't the Nightclub

So you've got a shiny silver shirt that you wore out last weekend and you think it really make an impression at your interview. While interview dress is boring to some, it's still best to stick with conservative suit colors, such as dark blue or gray, and neutral or basic color shirts.

9. Killer Nails...Literally

Like excessive jewelry, flashy fingernails will only distract your interviewer. Make sure your nails are neat, clean and trimmed before the interview, and opt for a neutral or clear polish. Men should pay attention to nails, too.

10. 10. Is it Casual Friday?

Even if you are interviewing with a company you think is casual, showing up in jeans, a t-shirt and tennis shoes will send the wrong impression. If you are in doubt about the company's dress code, ask. Just make sure you don't show up looking more casual than the company's employees.