

How to Dress for a Job Interview

You got the job interview – now what should you wear? When planning on what to wear, most of us are thinking about our image, what represents us, what will give the right impression. Even if you are not a fan of fashion, you cannot argue with the fact that our clothes play a major role in the first impression we give in a job interview. However, deciding on what to wear is not easy, because every work place has its own dress code, and different roles also dictate different dress expectations (i.e. sales and administrative positions may require more tailored clothing than an engineering position). But one good rule of thumb is to always dress “one notch higher” than what would typically be expected in the organization where the interview will be taking place.

Here are some simple guidelines on how to dress for the interview:

1. Consider the type of position you are applying for and the level of attire that would be appropriate. For instance, a business suit and tie would be suitable in an interview for an administrative position at a large investment bank, while casual khaki pants and a plain collared shirt would be appropriate for a music teacher.
2. Match the outfit to the message that you want to convey. It is often said that the “clothes make the man.” So if you are interviewing for a job with great responsibility, show it by dressing conservatively and neatly. If it is an interior or architecture design firm, you might want to add some colour or unique glasses to express your creativity.
3. Do not wear garments that are revealing or open-toed shoes such as sandals. Sleeveless shirts are inappropriate for a job interview, regardless of how hot it may be outside.
4. Avoid clothes that are torn or ripped. Long pants or jeans can sometimes look trendy or elegant, depending on the type of job interview, but tears and rips are never appropriate, as it makes you look sloppy and careless.
5. General aesthetics: haircuts should be generally neat and tidy, without overly flashy accessories that may distract the interviewer. Men with beards or mustaches should make sure they are trimmed, or, alternatively, well shaved. For women who apply makeup, it is important to remember that it should be applied to give you some energy and colour to your face, but not too heavy as to look overdone. And finally, both sexes must pay attention to personal hygiene, specifically in relation to body odour, especially if it is hot – you don’t want to be unpleasant to stand next to in the elevator!

In summary, just remember to dress so that you feel comfortable with yourself and confident that you are representing yourself correctly for the position. First impressions are important!