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### 3 Interview Horror Stories

1 message

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Thu, May 23, 2019 at 9:32 PM

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To: Rishav Ghosh &lt;rishavghosh605@gmail.com&gt;

Hey Rishav -

Sometimes when heading to an interview, I used to worry about the most ridiculous things happening.

Like forgetting to wear pants. Or the interviewer screaming at me for 45 minutes. Or having to solve a problem in front of an auditorium of people.

I mean some people have had crazy stuff happen to them, right?

Like this Redditor who was asked if they'd ever stolen anything and had to make up a story about [stealing a toaster](#).

*(If you don't see images below, click "Display images")*

The manager nodded and made a note on his clipboard. "What's the most that you've ever stolen? Give me a dollar amount."

"Uh," I stuttered, caught off-guard. "Is that really a question you can ask?"

"I'm just looking for a dollar amount," the man replied.

I racked my brain, trying to think of any petty thefts that I might have committed over the course of my life. I'd occasionally repurposed traffic cones, but never actually *stolen* one. Hell, the one instance of shoplifting that I'd been a witness to had left me feeling so guilty that I'd gone back the next day and returned the item in question.

"Zero," I finally said. "I don't think I've ever actually stolen anything."

A look of disapproval darkened the manager's face. "I see. Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Really." The disapproval fell even deeper into a suspicious glower. "Go ahead and answer that question again. Just give me a dollar amount."

The situation, as I'm sure you'll agree, had gone from bizarre to patently ridiculous. I wasn't even sure that I *wanted* the job at that point... but I didn't have any other prospects lined up, so I decided to keep playing the game. Maybe, I thought to myself, it was a test to see if I'd change my answer.

"Zero," I said again.

The man put down his clipboard and looked me in the eye. "Do you actually want this job?" he asked, mirroring my own thoughts. I nodded in reply. "Then you'll need to be honest with me. Just give me a dollar amount."

"Sixteen dollars," I replied, sarcasm creeping into my tone, "and forty-two cents."

All at once, the disapproval evaporated from the manager's face and was replaced by a satisfied smile. "Well, that's not so bad!" he said cheerfully. "What was it?"

"A toaster." I'd just said the first thing that came to my mind, not even bothering to imagine what \$16.42 would actually purchase. The answer only seemed to further endear me to my once-irate interviewer, and against all odds, I made it through the entire conversation. I may have even been offered the job, but when I received a telephone call asking if I was still interested in working there, I told them that I'd already accepted another position.

For the record, that was also a lie.

**TL;DR: I lied about being a toaster thief.**

Or this poor poster who said that [their favorite sports team is "basketball"](#).

↑ yuckierbigfoot 562 points · 5 months ago · edited 5 months ago

↓ When I was 16 I brought my resume in to a Boston Pizza. My plan was to politely give it to the hostess and leave, but it just so happened that the Hiring Manager was there that day. The hostess excitedly went to grab him from the back, and lucky me got to speak to him face to face. He introduced himself and told me what Boston Pizza was all about. Being a sports bar, he half-jokingly told me that all the staff had to be big sports fans to work there. Then the first and unfortunately last question he asked me is what my favourite team is. I panicked, (what is sport) looked at the nearest tv monitor which was playing a basketball game and said, "basketball". My dumbass thought I had absolutely nailed the question too, until he awkwardly smiled and thanked me for coming in. I didn't realize what I had said until I was walking out, replaying the conversation in my head...

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Or this person who unwittingly participated in the [ice bucket challenge](#).

↑ thatone-there 5.4k points · 5 months ago · edited 5 months ago

↓ Interviewed for a florist as a teenager. I'm quite small and so the owner kept telling me I'd struggle lifting the buckets filled with water and flowers.

He then gave me a tour and showed me the storeroom, told me to pick up a bucket to get an idea of how heavy it was.

Since he had kept going on about it I severely overestimated how heavy the bucket would be and basically flung it above my head and drenched us both in icy water and flowers.

Now, I highly doubt any of these things will ever happen to you. They may be amusing stories, but they're about one in a billion.

The scary part is that what will mess up your interview likely won't be some crazy circumstance. In fact, it will be what you've already studied.

**Simply, you'll be screwed by not knowing interview topics as well as you should.**

Knowing strategies to get you unstuck can only get you so far. The techniques we discussed on Tuesday will get you a long way, but not if you don't really understand the underlying topic.

Some topics, such as recursion, are just not taught at the level that you need to know them for your interview.

So-called "teachers" convince you that you know these topics because they focus on basic problems that anyone can solve. "If you can solve Fibonacci, you know recursion!"

But then you get into the interview and they ask you the real questions. The ones that no one prepared you for.

And it's like someone dumping a bucket of ice water on your head.

This is why I'm so excited to be sharing my new course with you next week. Make sure you watch for Monday's email.

In the course, I'm going to show you exactly what your teachers never will. You'll learn advanced recursion strategies so that you can solve any problem with ease.

Best,  
Sam

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