



Job interview stories

Lesson code: 9QSZ-B7EB-U3Z5

INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm-up

When was the last time you attended or held an interview? Was it successful? Why/why not?

2 Vocabulary

In pairs, complete the definitions with the words/phrases below.

against your will
nationwide

fit for
nerve-racking

hiring for
sticks out

1. If a situation is _____, it causes a lot of stress.
2. If something _____ in your mind, you remember it very clearly.
3. If somebody makes you do something _____, you do not want to do it.
4. If something is _____, it takes place all over the country.
5. If a company is _____ a position, they are looking for a new employee.
6. If you are the perfect _____ a job you are the best candidate to fill the position.

3 Job interview behaviour

Work in pairs. You are going to read about an American survey of HR managers on the most unusual things they have seen during job interviews. Below are eight incidents that actually happened according to the survey. Try to guess what exactly happened. Complete the sentences and then read the article to see how close you were.

1. The candidate took a off the interviewer's desk and put it in her purse.
2. The candidate started screaming in the interview because
3. The candidate said his ideal job was a painter of birdhouses. He was applying for the position of
4. Instead of talking, the candidate decided to
5. When asked why he wanted the position, the candidate replied that his wanted him to get a job.
6. The candidate started feeling the interviewer's
7. The candidate had a live under his shirt.
8. During a phone interview, the candidate threw the phone in



THE
INDEPENDENT

Job interviews: Recruiters reveal the strangest things candidates have done

From stealing family photos to trying to read the interviewer's fortune against his will — these are the candidates who stood out for all the wrong reasons.

- 1 There are fewer things more nerve-racking than a job interview but think about these poor candidates who have stuck out in their potential employer's minds - and for all the wrong reasons.
- 2 A nationwide survey of HR managers in the US by the recruitment company CareerBuilder has found some of the strangest things that have ever happened during a job interview.
- 3 From theft to attempting to read the interviewer's fortune against his will, these are some things not to do in a job interview:
 1. Candidate took a family photo off the interviewer's desk and put it into her purse.
 2. Candidate started screaming that the interview was taking too long.
 3. Candidate said her main job was being a psychic/medium and tried to read interviewer's palm, despite interviewer's attempts to decline the offer.
 4. When asked what his ideal job was, the candidate said "painter of birdhouses." (Company was hiring for a data entry clerk.)
 5. Candidate sang her responses to questions.
 6. Candidate put lotion on his feet during the interview.
7. When asked why he wanted the position, candidate replied, "My wife wants me to get a job."
8. Candidate started feeling interviewer's chest to find a heartbeat so they could "connect heart to heart."
9. Candidate had a pet bird in his/her shirt.
10. Candidate took phone interview in the bathroom — and flushed.
- 4 The survey also found that failing to make eye contact, not smiling and being caught in a lie were the biggest — and most common — mistakes candidates could make.
- 5 Rosemary Haefner, chief human resources officer for CareerBuilder, said: "Preparing for an interview takes a lot more than Googling answers to common interview questions."
- 6 "Candidates have to make a great first impression with their appearance, have a solid understanding of the target company, know exactly how to show that they're the perfect fit for the job and control their body language."

Adapted from The Independent, by Caroline Mortimer, 15 January 2016



4 Collocations

Read the article again and complete the tips below with suitable verbs.

1. _____ eye contact.
2. _____ a great first impression with your appearance.
3. _____ for the interview.
4. Don't _____ in a lie.
5. _____ a solid understanding of the company.
6. _____ your body language.

Which of these tips are the most important? Why?

5 Key words

Find a word or phrase in the article which means ...

1. were noticed/remembered very easily (*phrasal verb, SUBTITLE*) _____
2. the crime of stealing something (*noun, P3*) _____
3. the inside surface of your hand (*noun, P3*) _____
4. emptied the toilet (*verb, P3*) _____
5. finding something in Google (*verb, P5*) _____
6. the company you are interested in (*2-word noun, P6*) _____

6 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions

1. Have you heard any strange interview stories?
2. Have you attended many job interviews? How do you prepare? What's the most difficult part of the experience?
3. Have you ever interviewed anyone for a job? What makes a good and bad candidate?



Hand out Page 1 of the worksheet.

1 Warm-up

Encourage a short warm-up discussion.

2 Vocabulary

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. nerve-racking | 2. sticks out | 3. against your will |
| 4. nationwide | 5. hiring for | 6. fit for |

3 Job interview behaviour

After students have completed the task, hand out Page 2 of the worksheet. Do a class feedback session. Whose guesses were closest to the truth?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. family photo | 2. the interview was taking too long |
| 3. data entry clerk | 4. sing |
| 5. wife | 6. chest |
| 7. bird | 8. the toilet |

Hand out Page 3 of the worksheet.

4 Collocations

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| 1. make | 2. make | 3. prepare |
| 4. be caught | 5. have | 6. control |

5 Key words

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. stood out | 2. theft | 3. palm |
| 4. flushed | 5. Googling | 6. target company |

