



Interviews are often nerve-racking experiences, but can become less so with adequate preparation.

Part of this preparation means deciding in advance what you are going to wear to ensure there are no wardrobe malfunctions to get you into a frenzy on the day. Here's our guide to entering the interview cool, calm and collected – comfortable enough so that you can focus on the really important stuff the interviewers will throw at you.

Of course each company is different and if it's made obviously clear to you that you can come to work in shorts, then you've got nothing to worry about. Having said that, even if the company is explicit in their very relaxed dress code, there is no harm in dressing up for an interview. It shows that you take care of yourself and you're taking the interview process very seriously. Dressing down, even for an interview at a hip, relaxed software firm, can have negative consequences. Rather wait to be told you can chill out your dress code.

But also take into account the industry and season. As Lisa Quast notes for *Forbes*: "Think about the image you want to project during your interview and then choose an outfit that will create a positive perception and is appropriate, given the time of year, your geographic location, and the job/company/industry."

Simple grooming mistakes can affect the way your interviewer considers your candidacy. You'd be surprised by how many candidates rock up at job interviews in slogan t-shirts about how much beer they can drink. Make sure you do your homework, and try find out as much about the office culture and dress code as you can.

The ground rules are: Don't reveal too much skin – your back, chest, feet and stomach should be covered. Avoid baggy clothing and sports brands. Make sure your outfit is clean and not creased.

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What to Wear to Your Job Interview

Interview Attire for Men:

- Clean shaven face or neatly trimmed beard
- Two-piece suit
 - Coordinated and pressed
 - Conservative colors like navy and dark grey
- Long-sleeved shirt, even in summer
 - White or light-blue solid color
- Empty pockets to eliminate bulges
- Conservative tie
- Belt matching color of shoes
- Leather shoes, black or cordovan
 - Polish right before
- No earrings
- Clean, trimmed fingernails

Tips

- Lay out your interview outfit the evening before and check for stains, tears or missing buttons.
- Make sure your interview clothing is clean and well-pressed.
- Except for women's earrings, avoid body-piercing jewelry.
- Avoid perfume, cologne, and aftershave.
- Men should be clean-shaven. A carefully trimmed beard or mustache is also acceptable. Avoid stubble that looks like a few days of growth.
- If possible, cover your tattoos.
- Wear clothes that fit.
- Do not wear flashy jewelry or watches.

Interview Attire for Women:

- Two-piece, matched suit
 - Suit should cover thighs when seated
 - Navy, black, grey or dark brown
- Tailored blouse, shell or knit top
 - Do not show cleavage
 - Avoid gaping at chest
- Leather Shoes
 - No strappy or platform
- Carry only one bag or tote
- Avoid perfume
- Avoid heavy makeup
- Clean, trimmed fingernails

You only get one chance to make a good first impression with a potential employer. The clothes you wear are the first part of that first impression, so dress to impress. A business suit says you mean business, even though it may make you feel uncomfortable and uncomfortable. It shows that you care about making a good first impression. Thousands of people are eliminated as job candidates every week merely because they were not dressed appropriately for the interview, but a business suit is always appropriate.

Myjobhelper has put together a [great infographic](#) about the standard look you should go for when interviewing at a corporate or for an office position.

They also provide the following general tips:

- Lay out your outfit the day before the interview, giving yourself enough time to adjust if need be
- Your clothes must be clean and neatly ironed
- No heavy perfume or makeup
- Guys – clean-shaven or neatly trimmed beard is the way to go
- Tattoos and jewellery could impact on the impression you create, so take care.

Once you are relaxed about the fact that you are portraying yourself in the very best "first image" light, you will be able to focus and make sure that the job is yours!

