

Ten Tips for Interview Attire

1. Clothing Culture: Ask yourself, "What is the clothing culture of the organization?" Do your homework! If you are not sure what appropriate dress is at the company, call the human resource department and ask. Remember that you only get one chance at a first impression. Take time to consider your general appearance, including body art, piercings and makeup, and decide whether you're a match for the culture of that company.

2. Jewelry: For most jobs, keep jewelry simple and above all, quiet. Watches are acceptable but preferably one that is conservative. No dangles, no jangles, no distractions. You want the interviewer to see and hear you, not your accessories.

3. Portfolio: Think about what you're going to carry your papers in (resume, portfolio, materials the interviewer may give you). Don't walk into an interview carrying loose sheets of paper. If you don't have a portfolio, buy a sturdy paper or plastic folder in a solid color, preferably something with a clasp. Women: if you need to carry a purse in addition to the briefcase, make it a small one. You don't want to look like you're boarding a train.

4. Be Aware of Fit: Try on your entire interview outfit, at home, well before the interview, and spend a couple hours in it. Everyone should be aware of the fit of your clothing. Can you sit and talk with the interviewer for an hour without fidgeting with your clothes?

5. Choosing Colors: When choosing which colors to wear, think conservative. Stick with solid or neutral colors such as navy, brown or black. A pop of color is acceptable in a dressy blouse or tie.

6. No Bare Skin: When wearing trousers, your socks should cover your calf when you sit down. Pant length matters. You don't want pants to be too long or it will look untailed and sloppy. Be aware of clothing that is too low cut or too short. Remember, professional not provocative.

7. Socks and Stockings: Women should make sure to wear closed in shoes with a conservative heel along with pantyhose if you are wearing a skirt. Play it safe with hosiery (stockings or socks), by following the two-touch rule: your hosiery should match either your shoes or your bottom garment (pants or skirt) or both.

- **Example 1:** navy pants, brown shoes with navy or brown socks
- **Example 2:** red pinstriped black skirt, black shoes with black stockings (red calls too much attention to your legs)

8. Shoes and Belt: In general, in formal business attire, your shoes and belt should match. As you move towards more casual attire, you can break this rule.

- **Example 1:** navy suit, brown shoes, brown belt
- **Example 2:** navy jacket, gray trousers, black shoes, black or dark gray belt

9. Are You Matching?: To mix patterns effectively, keep the colors in the same family but vary the scale. If you don't think you can do this on your own, ASK FOR HELP!

- **Example 1:** blue pinstriped white shirt, red tie, solid navy jacket
- **Example 2:** cream shirt, solid brown tie with texture in the fabric, medium-scale brown/light brown jacket

10. Fragrances: Go easy on the perfume or cologne. Wearing too much of these fragrances may offend someone. Make sure your hair is recently washed and that it is neatly groomed.



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