

Interview like a Pro

You've submitted countless job applications and résumés and then you get the call. You have impressed a hiring manager to finally get an interview. Whether this is your very first interview or you have gone through several before, interviews can be a little nerve-racking. With preparation and some work, though, you can blow your interviewer away. Here are some of our tips to insure that you are ready for any interview.

Conduct yourself in a professional manner always.

We will let you in on a secret: your interview begins way before you sit down with the interviewer. From the moment the interviewer calls you on the phone to set up an interview to the moment you get into your car after the interview, you are being evaluated. This means that you should answer your phone politely, be eager and confident on the phone, and be polite and professional to everyone when you come to the interview.

Do some research on the company you are interviewing for.

Know some background information on the company. Research them online and talk to any employees you know who work there. Have a solid understanding of why you want to work for that company.

Think of valuable experiences you have to incorporate into your answers.

Even if you have never had a "real job" before, you probably have valuable experiences that show you are responsible, proactive, and goal-oriented person. Use examples of volunteer work, babysitting, side jobs, and school activities that show you are motivated.

Dress nicely.

Depending on the company and position, the degree to which you need to dress changes. Get familiar with the company's dress code ahead of time and always dress a step above that.

Arrive 10-15 minutes early.

This shows that this is a priority and important to you. This is also a reflection of how you will show up at work.

Be polite and confident during the interview.

Smile, have good eye contact and stay positive. An interviewer has to be sure that you can do those things when helping customers, so they need to see you do them during the interview.

Be yourself and have fun with it.

An interview is just a conversation to see if your values and the company's values align. If you answer the questions honestly, be yourself, and show that you care, the interviewer will be impressed.