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IT APPRENTICESHIPS

## **DRESS TO IMPRESS: WHAT TO WEAR TO AN INTERVIEW**

First impressions are vital when you attend an interview, and what you wear will form a massive part of this first impression the employer makes. Therefore, you should concentrate really hard on what you wear - don't simply whip out the first thing you find and sling it on in the morning before the interview starts!



## DRESS TO IMPRESS: WHAT TO WEAR TO AN INTERVIEW

**If you are ever unsure about what to wear, a suit in a plain colour will always be a good choice - regardless of whether you are male or female. All the other applicants should be dressed in the same manner, so you won't feel out of place, and you will also have the confidence of knowing that you are already being judged favourably from the outset.**

**Here's a few dos and don'ts when it comes to your interview day attire...**

- **Hats are off limits.** Unless you wear headwear for religious reasons, there is never any need to wear a hat to an interview. Beanies, caps, bobble hats - they are all completely off-limits. Even wearing a hat on the way to the interview is a bad idea, as it will mess up your hair and make you look scruffy.
- **Cover up.** This is one mainly for female applicants. While some employers won't mind, it is always a good idea to cover up your body, therefore meaning that cleavages or particularly short skirts should be avoided.
- **Quality shows.** Invest in a good quality suit - one that fits well and therefore shows that you understand the importance of presenting yourself perfectly. Cheap suits - such as those bought on eBay - will immediately make you look unkempt and unattractive as a potential employee.
- **Novelty items aren't suitable.** That Mickey Mouse tie you got for Christmas, and the socks with LED lights on them, are not right for an interview. Leave them for family gatherings and present yourself as a serious professional.
- **Be understated to impress.** Don't load yourself up with jewellery or pile on the make-up before an interview. Make the employer concentrate on you, not the excessive amount of gold hanging from your neck.
- **Trim that beard.** Facial hair is perfectly acceptable nowadays, but make sure it has been professionally trimmed before the interview day.

- **Body art needs covering.** Tattoos will be okay for most employers, however they should be covered up just in case. Also, remove piercings apart from one in each ear for women.

Of course, looking good at your interview is not going to guarantee you a job offer. What it will do though is make sure you are still in with a shout when you first open your mouth to speak. Looking unprofessional when you walk into the room will make the rest of the interview pointless, as the employer will already have made up their mind.

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