



## **STEP 12: HOW TO DRESS FOR AN INTERVIEW**

The old saying, “*dress the way you want to be addressed,*” rings true, when preparing for an interview. The way you appear to your interviewer is the first thing he or she notices about you—so be sure to make a good first impression.

Traditionally the safe bet is dressing up in a sharp suit and tie for men, and a skirt or pantsuit and heels/flats for women. Whenever you are in doubt, you can always fall back on these ever-appropriate options.

However, with the workplace becoming more progressive and diverse, certain industries have developed more nuanced dress codes, to match the nature of their organization. Make sure you research the company to decide the most appropriate dress code.

There are two types of interviews:

- **Corporate Interviews:** Healthcare, finance, sales, etc
- **Casual Interviews:** Marketing, IT, Trade, Creative Industries

### **Corporate Interviews**

The dress code is strict and should be completely formal, to make a good impression.

- **Female Attire**

Keep it classy and simple when preparing for a job interview. When in doubt, resort to a dark dress suit and enclosed footwear.

Look our checklist while you choose the perfect outfit for an interview:

- Solid coloured skirt suit or pantsuit (Black, Navy, Grey)
- Skirt suits should be just below or above the knee
- White blouse or colour-coordinated blouse

- Conservative close-toed shoes
- Deodorant
- Tidy make-up – keep it simple.
- Covered up tattoos
- Manicured nails
- Minimal perfume
- Notebook and pen
- If desired wear neutral-colored pantyhose
- Simple, minimal jewelry
- Well kept hairstyle

- **Male Attire**

The traditional attire for men is a suit and tie and that still holds steady today.

Here is a checklist to help you prepare for your big interview:

- Solid coloured suit (Black, Navy, Grey)
- White long-sleeved shirt or coloured shirts (must match suit)
- Conservative tie
- Covered up tattoos
- Dark socks and leather shoes
- Leather belt
- Minimal body spray
- Notebook and pen
- A neat and simple haircut
- Short, trim nails
- Minimal Jewelry

## Casual Interviews

More and more companies are trending towards a more casual work environment, and this extends to their interviewing process. Showing up in a suit and tie will probably not help your case at a new-age tech company or start-up, so dress appropriately.

- **Female Attire**

- **Bottoms:** Khakis, knee-length skirts or long pants, dress jeans
- **Tops:** Polo blouses, button-down blouses
- **Shoes:** Flats, heels, no open-toe shoes
- Minimal jewelry

- **Male Attire**

- **Pants:** Khakis, slacks, dress pants, dress jeans
- **Shirts:** Polo shirts, buttoned-down shirt
- **Shoes:** Dress shoes, loafers
- Blazer
- Minimal jewelry

## Conclusion

The best way to prepare for an interview is to do your research into what dress code is appropriate in the industry, and the company, specifically. Find out and dress to match the organization you are interviewing for.

All in all, there are few rules that should be adhered to, no matter how formal or informal your interview is:

- Avoid revealing outfits
- Ensure your clothes are clean and without stains and tears
- Prepare your outfit at least 3 days before the interview.
- Choose only comfortable, well-fitting clothing.

Good luck.