

# Resume Hut



Looking for employment

10 reasons why you won't get the job

If you make it through the resume selection and get invited for interview, this is your chance to show that you're the best candidate for the job. You won't have much time at a first interview and the 'weeding out' will likely be ruthless as the employer selects only the most suitable candidates for a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview.

Our experience tells us that the top 10 reasons for failing the first interview are:

- 1. Showing up late, tired, or smelling of alcoholic beverages, strong perfume or tobacco**  
First impressions really, really count! You never get a second chance at a first impression. Get a good night's sleep the night before and aim to arrive early – perhaps to a coffee shop nearby to make sure you're on time.
- 2. Not bothering to research the company or the job**  
How can you present yourself as the ideal candidate when you don't even understand the job? Your interview answers should relate to the position offered and clearly demonstrate that you understand the way the company and the role function. What will you say when asked "so... why do you want to work here"? Or "what makes you think you're right for this company"
- 3. Speaking about your current or last employer negatively**  
Apart from being completely unprofessional this is also a "danger signal" to your interviewer that you might be a source of "discontent" within the company if you are given the job. Don't do it, even if you're asked to comment.
- 4. Immediately asking what the salary and benefits are**  
This immediately suggests that money is all that you are interested in and that you have no real desire or other reason to apply for this job in particular.
- 5. Not listening carefully**  
Don't just listen, try to understand why the question is being asked and how you can best answer it. Think about what the interviewer is trying to uncover with the question.
- 6. Dressing inappropriately**  
You do have to look the part. For instance, if the job is a customer facing position make sure you're clean and smart, clean shoes and tidy hair. Use your common sense and make the effort.
- 7. Talking incessantly at every opportunity**  
Keep your answers relevant, to the point, and don't go wandering off on personal or irrelevant matters and stories with no relation to the position you're applying for.

**8. Telling jokes or trying to impress everyone with your 'dynamic personality and quick wit'**

It's fine to have a sense of humour, but remember, unless you're interviewing at a circus, no one wants to hire a clown.

**9. Counting on name dropping to make sure everyone knows how connected you are**

An interviewer is focused on your skills and aptitude for the job, not who you know or socialise with. Don't bother name dropping.

**10. Sitting quietly and answering questions with little enthusiasm and as few words as possible**

Don't be afraid to "be yourself" and relax. Your interviewer is looking for your personality to gauge how well you will fit in at the company. They will also be looking for signs that you are keen and have some enthusiasm for the job. This is your chance to shine – go for it!

Our experience has shown us that there are many other reasons why people bomb out on an interview. Many of our clients ask us for interview skills coaching to avoid them and increase the odds of a job offer following a great interview!

An interview needs to be interactive and is an effective way for BOTH parties to ascertain whether this is a good fit or not.

Take some time to chat with us *before* you take that all important first interview. We can always help. Call us any time for a free 30 minute consultation to find out what we can do for you and your future. We get results.