

10 Comprehensive Job Interview Tips



You're almost there. Your resume landed you an interview and now it's time to seal the deal. So what's the best way to prepare? Here are the comprehensive 12 tips for you to help you before, during and after your interview:

1. Research Earnings Calls, Quarterly Reports & Blog Posts

In today's world, content is king. Goldman Sachs publishes quarterly reports, Microsoft records its earning calls, and every startup has a blog. Includes the data you learnt about the company when answering question during the interview, it shows you've done your homework.

2. Use Google Alerts

Tracking the company news is hard, especially if you're interviewing with multiple places at once, and you need to keep up to news of more than one company. Utilise the tool- Google Alerts which emails you anytime a new story appears for a that specific term. In that way, you learn about current events from time to time without searching for them.

3. Use Social Sweepster To Clean Your Facebook & Twitter

Nowadays, employers search your social media for any red flags. There's a much easier solution for this while most people tell you to watch every single thing you upload. Use Social Sweepster, an app that detects pictures of red solo cups, beer bottles, and other "suspicious" objects. It even detects profanity from your past posts. However, do check your social media profile again to avoid any regret.

4. Schedule For Tuesday at 10:30 AM

According to Glassdoor, the best time to interview is 10:30 AM on Tuesday. Remember, your interviewer has a tons of responsibilities beyond hiring. They're responding to emails, managing projects, and meeting other candidates. So it's crucial to be a little bit more details in making sure they'll be in the best mental state to meet you.

Research shows it's best to take the earliest interview slot "in circumstances under which decisions must be made quickly or without much deliberation because preferences are unconsciously and immediately guided to those options presented first.". If the firm is hiring for a job starting in a few months, try to interview late morning between Tuesday through Thursday. If the firm is hiring immediately, grab the earliest slot.

5. Craft Your "Story Statement"

Example: Here's an amazing Story Statement that Teach For America fellow Kareli Lizarraga used for her interviews.

"I grew up in California and Arizona after immigrating to the United States when I was four years old. Since neither of my parents went to college, I relied on my high school teachers to help me apply to top universities. With their support, I was able to attend the University of Pennsylvania. Then I spent a summer at a Washington DC law firm, which represented low-income students and helped me realize that my passion lay within creating educational opportunities for all.

I decided to become a teacher because I see myself so deeply reflected in the stories of so many students in your schools – and that's why I'm so excited about the opportunity to interview with you today. Like my teachers did for me, I want to impact the next generation of students by supporting them and understanding the experiences they're facing."

A Story Statement shows who you are, not necessarily just a professional one. It also gets your interviewer easier to predict the next chapter of your story. For Kareli, Teach For America is a logical next step. Of course, if she interviewed by Apple, she may modify her Story Statement and talk about how her passion for tech grew from her early childhood when she first used a computer. However, if you are expected to tell more about your professionalism, ignore the irrelevant stories and straight to the points of what you have accomplished.

There are chances, and we actually have had the experiences we can connect to where we're trying to reach out. It's just a matter of selecting the right one to tell your story. In another word, if you are struggling to craft your Story Statement for a particular interview, you might be wrong in applying for the job.

6. Dress up appropriately

Seek for our advice @**8 Tips To Dress For Interview Success**

7. Prepare for The “What’s Your Weakness?”

Seek for our advice @**20 Interview Questions You Must Know How to Answer**

8. Utilise the STAR answering technique

STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) is the job interview technique used by interviewers to gather all the relevant information about a specific capability that the job requires. This technique is a behavioral interview technique.

- Situation: The interviewer wants you to present a recent challenge and situation in which you found yourself.
- Task: What did you have to achieve? The interviewer will be looking to see what you were trying to achieve from the situation.
- Action: What did you do? The interviewer will be looking for information on what you did, why you did it and what the alternatives were.
- Results: What was the outcome of your actions? What did you achieve through your actions and did you meet your objectives? What did you learn from this experience and have you used this learning since?

9. Ask Questions That Kill Two Birds With One Stone

For details, read our post @**8 Questions Every Candidate Should Ask During Job Interviews**

Here are the examples on how you should ask:

Weak: Will this role provide opportunities to work in emerging markets?

Strong: I’m passionate about languages and minored in Arabic in college. Will this role provide opportunities to work in emerging markets in the Middle East?

Weak: Are there opportunities for community service?

Strong: I used to work with Habitat for Humanity and was so grateful for the opportunity to give back.

For a full time employee, are there company-wide community service events that I could take part in?

Weak: What’s [Company X]’s fastest growing division?

Strong: According to your quarterly report, your revenues grew by 17%. Is that because of a particular division within the company?

This works beautifully if you haven’t found a natural way to bring up an accomplishment or cite a publication beforehand.

10. After the interview, make sure you follow our guideline @**10 Things to do After Interview**