



Clothing talks...

... In a non-verbal way, of course. Clothes say a lot about your principles, economic status, and more. So, how do you keep your personal style and individuality when interviewing while still being seen as a good fit for the company?

Keep it professional. Steer clear of ragged, wrinkled, or stained clothing, as well as clothes that are too tight, loose, short, brightly colored, revealing, or trendy. Avoid flashy jewelry. Keep in mind that organizations may frown upon visible tattoos, body piercings, and unusual hair colors and styles.

Know the basics.

Well-styled, understated outfits are always safe. Nothing provocative or sexy – you're going to the workplace, not clubbing. Start with a canvas of neutral colors – grays, blacks, dark browns – that look good and fit well. Classic, conservative skirt suits or pant suits tend to be the safest route. Even if business casual is the company code, it's better to be overdressed, rather than underdressed. Skirts should be knee-length. Wear neutral-toned hose for a well-groomed look even if it's warm outside.

Coordinate the above with simple white, ivory, or business blue blouses. Keep the focus on your abilities, not your wardrobe. Buy quality, versatile fabrics – they last longer, look better, and breathe for comfort.

There's no need to go broke just to put together a good interview or job wardrobe. Set and stick to a realistic budget. Get help from a friend, family member, or sales associate to help you work within your set budget.

Color me impressed.

When corporate palettes aren't essential, choose colors that flatter your features and complement your skin tones. If it's dreary or dark outside, try boosting your look by adding an accent scarf or brooch to highlight your face and brighten the day.

Less is more.

Use modest makeup to gently augment your look. Save the heavy makeup for your nighttime look. Some people are allergic to perfume, so try lightly scented bath soap instead.

Neat nails.

Keep the bright and lengthy nails for when you're not in a work setting. They can be great conversation starters at a party, but they can draw negative attention in an interview or corporate workplace. Modest, clean nails work best.

You're a gem.

When it comes to jewelry, think subtle and conservative. Jewelry should complement and add to a refined look. It shouldn't be audible, so avoid bangles that clank and distract.

When interviewing, keep it simple. Showcase your style by reducing

Look the Part: Women

Learn to dress for the position you want.

Simply put:

Your appearance makes a statement – be sure it's the right one:

- Clean suit or dress that fits properly.
- Classic, conservative styles and colors.
- Less is more when it comes to jewelry and accessories.
- Polished dark shoes.
- Remember deodorant/antiperspirant.
- Minimal or no perfume.
- Avoid trends and underwear lines.
- Neat, tidy, comfortable hairdo.
- Clean breath, teeth, and finger nails.

clutter caused by jewelry. Remember, less is more.

Scarves, handbags, and shoes... oh my!

Scarves should serve to add color and texture to your basic outfit. Handbags and shoes should match up and be fashionable. Wear closed-toe shoes with flat or modest 1-2" heels. Opt for a briefcase or portfolio case in place of a purse.

Always remember to dress for the job you're aiming to get – not for the job you already have – and to dress comfortably. Give yourself the ability to focus on the interview or the job itself without either you or the employer being distracted by what you are wearing.

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