

Interview Dressing Tips: Men

Anyone can develop a professional image. Below are listed some ideas on interview dressing for men:

Always dress as well as you can and don't take any chances on your appearance. A suit, that fits well and looks good, makes the wearer feel good and further enhances overall appearance.

For most industries, opt for a conservatively tailored well-made suit. Quality is key – the suit should be made of wool or a good wool blend and fit you perfectly. Always have suits altered by a tailor – they rarely fit off the rack.

Shirt color preferences are white or blue. Both button down and straight collars are acceptable. Pink or striped shirts are generally not good selections for a first interview, although in a more casual or fashion-conscious industry, they would be a better choice. Your best bet is to know as much as you can about the dress code of the people with whom you are interviewing.

A man's tie is the most important part of his outfit because it is his only chance to add interest and his own sense of style. A good silk tie can totally upgrade a man's suit, so it is well worth the investment. Ideally your tie should contrast with your suit. Avoid wearing a solid suit with a solid tie.

Accessories are an important point in your total look. Shoes and belts should be good quality leather and should match in color. Black, cordovan or brown are the best color choices. Either lace-ups or slip-ins are appropriate. Interviewers react to flashy buckles and ornaments on shoes, so these should be kept as simple as possible. Follow the same rule with belts. Also, briefcases and folders should always be leather.

Socks should be high enough so that your legs don't show when you sit or cross them.

Jewelry should always be kept simple, and limited to either a wedding band or signet ring on your hands. Although tie clips and cufflinks may be appropriate after you have landed a job, they are inappropriate for interviews. Watches should be simple with a dial face and leather band. Diver's watches and heavy watches with a lot of functions should be for sportswear.

Of course your grooming should be impeccable. There is no question that the clean-shaven look is safest for a businessman. It makes most men look younger, cleaner and more efficient. Many people have negative reactions to mustaches and full beards are generally a turnoff. There are always exceptions of course. A neat, well-trimmed mustache may make a man seem more mature and in control. It is important that the mustache enhances your face and not makes it look comical. Full beards fall into the high-risk area in corporate America. Unless it improves a small chin or weak jaw line, they should be avoided. Of course, in more

“creative” professions like college professors, architects and psychologists, beards are acceptable.

Your hairstyle itself should be kept neat and up-to-date. A good stylist is key to giving you a cut that is easy to care for as well as flattering to your facial features.

A final point about fragrances. Many people are allergic to fragrances or they associate the fragrance with another experience in their life – either positive or negative. Either way, a fragrance may be offensive to an interviewer and should be avoided.

A Final Word

On the day of your interview, remember to be prepared. Make sure your raincoat is cleaned and pressed and that your umbrella is in good condition. Your shoes should be polished and your suit freshly pressed. Your interviewing outfit should be a comfortable one. Avoid wearing a brand new suit to an interview. Carry a needle and thread in your briefcase in case a button pops or a hem falls. All of this may sound, “nitpicking” but you can’t be at your best if you are worrying about a spot on your tie. So, arrive 15 minutes early at your interview to give yourself a final check.