

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



867 Things Not to Say or Do in a Job Interview

Today, things you want to avoid saying when you interview for a job. I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's next, on The Extra Point.

Friday, we discussed how to list achievements on your resume, and work them into conversations with the hiring managers when you apply for a job. Today, let's go over some things you do not want to say if you land interviews.

1. What does your company do? Asking this question is not a good way to start off the interview. It makes you appear lazy. Look it up online.

Or, arrive a half-hour early for the interview and figure it out. Most companies will have printed material in their waiting room you can look at, that will answer questions you may have.

2. Before you ask intelligent questions about the job itself, you ask how much you get paid and how soon do you get vacation time. It just says the wrong things right off the bat.

3. Don't talk yourself down. When people lack confidence, or are nervous in situations like an employment interview, sometimes they will downplay their strong points, or suggest they may not be the best at a certain skill.

The person interviewing you thought enough of your resume or application to want to talk with you, so play it straight. Think about this: the interviewer is more interested in what you can do, more than what you can't do.

4. No personal questions. Don't ask the interviewer if he/she is married, or say they have a beautiful smile, or anything that a reasonable person might feel is flirting. This really shouldn't have to be mentioned, but it happens, so I've mentioned it.

I think I told the story here once of a guy who walked in for an interview, and his eyes immediately were taken by the beautiful young receptionist. She asked him to take a seat, and that the interview would start in about 20 minutes. For half that time, he stared at her. A few times, she looked up and caught his glance.

Then, he approached her desk again and basically began to hit on her. The woman said she'd be happy to talk with him after interview, and that got him excited. She then led him to the conference room, and said the interviewer would be right in.

Two minutes later, the door opened, and in walked the receptionist. She smiled at the man and then sat down. Right, she was the interviewer. It turned out the regular receptionist was running late and she was helping out answering the phones. During the session, she basically scolded him for what he'd done. Remember why you're there.

5. Don't use profanity. Again, this should not have to be said. However, I've interviewed people who cursed in the meeting. If you'll drop that kind of language in a job interview, maybe you'll do it in front of a customer. No deal.

6. Keep political opinions to yourself. Even if you and the interviewer are both staunch conservatives, or so far left you make Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez look like a Trump supporter, don't talk about it in the interview.

It's the same as the issue on cursing. The hiring manager would have to figure if you felt comfortable enough to drop bad language in the interview, you wouldn't hesitate doing it again.

(Con't.)

7. Don't badmouth any former employers. It's just bad form. Even if they were 100% wrong, try to mention something positive about your time there, and maybe what you learned in the process. No rants.

One more, a bonus for you. At the end of most sessions, the interviewer will ask if you have any questions. Make sure you have two or three good ones.

Do some research and ask questions that show your curiosity about the company, and maybe where it's headed. This gives you the opportunity to end the interview on a strong and positive note.

If you're one of those preparing to look for work, I hope what we talked about today will give you a leg up on the competition.

By the way, following these guidelines is actually beneficial to good employers, who often have to play a guessing game when it comes to selecting the best job candidate. Make their job easier. Stand out, and be the obvious choice.

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.
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