



20 things to not say or do in an interview

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If you want to succeed in your job interview there are some things you should never say. Below are twenty of these.

1. *"I didn't have time to prepare"*. If you say this what you are telling the interviewers is that you didn't care enough about the interview and their time to prepare. In other words, you are sloppy and casual and are most probably not going to prepare your work properly if you get the job.
2. *"I am so nervous"*. You probably are going to be nervous, but don't say it. All you do is look unprofessional and you could quite likely make the interviewers feel uneasy. Practice your interviews and work on your confidence so you don't come across as too nervous. Interviewers like people with confidence. Interviewers are also more likely to employ you if they feel at ease with you.
3. *"My last company was so toxic"*. Never bad mouth a company or person in an interview. The interviewers will wonder if you are going to be saying the same thing about them. Bad mouthing anyone says more about the speaker than about whoever is being put down.
4. *"My boss was such an idiot"*. The same explanation as above applies. If you say such a thing you also risk coming across as arrogant. Maybe your boss, or your bosses' boss thought you were an idiot.
5. *"I don't know"*. If you are asked a question you don't know the answer to, rather than say I don't know, speak about how you would go about finding an answer. No one today knows everything. Even in their field of expertise. What they do know is how to go about finding an answer. So, talk about how you would go about finding an answer to the question in the workplace. You could also talk about how you would think about breaking the problem down into smaller parts and working on each. Just don't say, "I don't know". It sounds far too defeatist in an interview. Tell your interviewers how you will go about things and how you will go about finding out the answer.
6. *"It's on my CV"*. If they ask you a question, then answer it. They may not have your CV with them, or, they may not have read through your CV in detail. They may also have decided they want to ask you the question in an interview situation to see how you respond.
7. *Don't use unprofessional language or swear*. Even if they do. You are in an interview. You need to be at your best. If you swear and curse, then expect some people to be offended.
8. *"I don't have any experience in doing"* In an interview you don't want to talk about what you cannot do. Talk about work you have done, and it can be vacation work or part time work

or hobbies where you have done tasks that developed similar skills and experience. Leave it to the interviewers to decide if you have enough experience.

9. *"I just need to take this call"*. Turn your phone off. Do not look at it all the time and do not take calls while in an interview. That is incredibly rude.
10. *"I really need this job and I am willing to do anything"*. Don't come across as desperate. People want to employ those who can add value to their company. Your role in the interview is to show them that you are a great potential hire and you will make their company better. Desperation is a big turnoff for almost everyone.
11. *"I can be such a dumb blonde"*. Don't speak negatively about yourself. In fact, don't ever do it, not just in interviews. It is far too easy for people to start wondering if maybe you are speaking some truth in saying that.
12. *"In my previous job we strategized xyz. Please don't say anything to anyone about this"*. Don't share confidential information about another company in an interview. You will come across as someone who cannot be trusted with important information. Actually, you will come across as unprofessional and naïve.
13. *Don't put your feet on the table or rearrange all the furniture in the room*. In other words, don't get too comfortable in your interview. It's their space, not yours. Don't take it over. And yes, I have seen people do this.
14. *"I don't have any weaknesses"*. Yes, you do, everyone has them. You are less likely to get a job if you say this. Everyone knows everyone has weaknesses. They know you cannot be perfect, and they want you to be honest and demonstrate self-awareness.
15. *"I have never made a mistake"*. If you say this they will assume you are dishonest and/or arrogant. Everyone has made mistakes.
16. *"I didn't have time to research your company"*. You are telling them you don't care enough about the interview and the company to prepare for the interview. You are telling them you are lazy and do the bare minimum in a job.
17. *"What does your company do?"* Before you go into the interview you must research the company. Your interviewers will be horrified if you come for the interview and know nothing about the company when you are interviewing for a job there.
18. *"I think that picture in that corner is really ugly"*. Do not engage in personal and inappropriate discussions, and with that, don't get too familiar with the interviewers. Maintain professional boundaries.
19. *"I would like to start my own business as soon as possible"*. One of the criteria in selecting a job applicant is that the person will stay for a reasonable period of time. It takes about a year for someone to learn to do the job properly. So, if you leave very soon after joining, the company suffers. They have put time into training you and not reaped any benefit from it. You want to indicate to the interviewers that you will stay there for some years.
20. *"I don't have any questions"*. This suggests to the interviewers that either you are bored with the interview, or you no longer find the job interesting, or you just don't care about the job.

All companies are different. They have different cultures and allow some leeway for different behaviours. In general, though, when going for an interview, no matter the company you are interviewing with, keep it professional, polite, respectful, and err on the side of being conservative. There is an expectation that people will act like that in an interview. If you are really outrageous with what appears to be "foot in mouth" problems, your interviewers will assume you will be worse on the job and out of control. And you will most likely be unsuccessful in getting the job.