

## DRESS TO IMPRESS: SECRETS OF PROPER ATTIRE

### The Importance of Proper Attire

Appropriate attire supports your image as a person who takes the interview process seriously and understands the nature of the industry in which you are trying to become employed.

In some industries, customer contact and image presented is critical. In such industries your attire will be judged critically.

For your interview, your attire should be appropriate and well-fitting, and should not take center stage.

If you are primarily remembered for your interview attire, there is a chance you made an error in judgment!

Dressing nicely and appropriately is also a compliment to the person you meet, so always put your most professional foot forward.

Whether an interview or other business event, always dress for success.

### Business Attire

*What is business attire?* It is the written or unwritten dress code of an organization. Business attire suggests a formal, conservative dress style. It is what is expected when interviewing with an employer unless otherwise stated. Attention to **detail**, impeccable **grooming**, and a **well-fitted suit** are a must to make a lasting impression.

### Men's Interview Attire – Back to Basics!

**The Suit:** Choose suits neutral in color – charcoal, navy, or gray. Black suits, while in style are less appropriate for an interview.

The pant leg should touch the front of the shoe and fall just above the heel in the back.

Pants can either have cuffs or not.

The fabric of the suit should be gabardine or wool. Blended material is acceptable but avoid cotton blends as they wrinkle.

The suit jacket should be buttoned while standing and unbuttoned to sit. Do not button the bottom button of a three-piece or two piece suit. (Remember this Rule: Sometimes, Always, Never...sometimes button the top button, always button the middle button and never button the bottom button.

Avoid suits with double-breasted jackets.

### The Dress Shirt:

Choose shirts in white, ecru, or light blue.

If possible, have your shirt professionally laundered.

Always wear a long sleeve shirt.

Pointed collars give a more professional image than button down collars, yet both are acceptable.

Avoid shirts with insignias on them.

The shirt's sleeve should extend beyond the suit jacket sleeves by ½ inch.

Always wear an undershirt (avoid v-necks) as they give the appearance of an unfinished look.

### The Tie:

Wear a conservative tie with subtle patterns or solid colors.

Ties should be of good quality and made of 100% silk.

Always wear a tie that is darker than your shirt.

Tie your tie to fall in the middle of your belt.

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### *Socks, Shoes and Belt:*

Wing tips or lace up conservative shoes are the most appropriate. Loafers should be used for business casual.

Choose black, brown or burgundy shoes. Shoe color should match your suit or be of a darker color.

Shoes should be in good condition and polished.

Socks should match the color of your suit and cover your calves.

Belts should be in good condition and match the color of your shoes.



### *Accessories:*

Men should limit accessories/jewelry to 3 pieces.

Accessories include watch, ring, handkerchief, lapel pins, cuff links, and tie tacks. A dress watch should be worn, avoid athletic styles.

Avoid bracelets, necklaces and visible piercings.

### *Grooming:*

Facial hair should be neatly trimmed (moustache, sideburns).

Hair should be neat and conservative, not touching the collar of your shirt.

Heavy cologne should be avoided. Soap and antiperspirant will allow the interviewer to remember you not your scent.

Nails should be clean and manicured.

Conceal any visible tattoos with clothing, accessories or cover-up like that available through Tattoo Camo.

### **Dressing on a Tight Budget**

Don't wait until you are pressed for time and have to make a hasty decision or a choice that is not in your budget. Remember that self-confidence is your primary goal when selecting your professional interview attire. Purchase clothing with multi-use potential.

Invest in impressive, classic, well-made separates that can be combined for a 'professional' or 'casual Friday' look.

Begin by selecting your best 'neutral' as a nucleus for a professional wardrobe. Colors like black, dark gray and navy are versatile, but pearl gray, stone, steel blue, camel and celery are fashionable options that lend new dimensions to any working wardrobe. Your best neutral is dependent upon personal coloring and personal style as well as your best visual impact.

Purchase matching components. Having options such as wearing pants with a jacket, sweater or vest multiplies possible combinations.

Use shirts/blazers/sweaters to create a variety of visual effects.

Select ties/bow ties and jewelry that add to possible visual variety.

Consider investing in season-less fabrics that drape and travel well, such as lightweight stretch wool, washable matte jersey or a blend of cotton and rayon.

You are not expected to be able to afford the same clothing as a corporate CEO. Do invest in quality that will look appropriate during your first two or three years on the job. One good quality suit is sufficient for a job search if that is all your budget allows.

Resources: [www.tattoocamo.com](http://www.tattoocamo.com)

[www.effortlessgent.com](http://www.effortlessgent.com)