

Tips for a Successful Interview

What you should and should not do:

Wear appropriate clothes. Your clothes say a lot about you. To show the USCIS officer that you take the interview seriously, you should dress nicely. Your clothes should be clean and probably a little conservative. **Don't** wear dirty, torn, flashy or casual clothes (tank tops, shorts, short skirts, etc.).

Put on your best face. Take a shower and wash your hair. Men: if you don't wear a beard, shave. Women: use make-up and perfume conservatively. Keep your look clean, simple, and professional. Also, **don't** chew gum or smell like smoke.

Know where you are going. Know the address, directions, how long it will take to get there, and where to park if you are driving. You might want to practice driving the day before just to make sure.

Be prepared. Have all your documents organized and ready. Practice answering interview questions at home with a friend or family member.

Arrive early, but not too early. Plan to get to the interview location 10-15 minutes before your appointment.

Greet the officer with respect. Make eye-contact and have a friendly expression. Smile and shake hands if the officer extends his or her hand. You can also make "small talk" with the officer. You can talk about the weather, events in the news, how you feel about your interview, and so on. Making small talk is a way of showing the officer that your English is good and that you are confident enough to have a conversation in English.



Keep good eye contact during the interview. Looking at the officer shows that you are not trying to avoid his questions. It makes you look confident and honest. **Don't** look at the floor, ceiling, or desk all the time. If you avoid making eye contact, the officer might think you are trying to hide something.

Sit still in your seat and sit up. Don't move around a lot (fidget) or sit low in your chair (slouch). Sitting still and sitting up right will make you look confident. It also shows that you take the interview seriously.

Answer all questions you are asked.

Ask for clarification if you don't understand a question. You can say, "I'm sorry, could you please repeat that?" or "Could you say that again, please?" or "I'm not sure I understand. Did you say, _____?" Try to repeat as much of the question as you can.

Always tell the truth. It is very important that you are honest in your interview. If you are not, you could get in serious trouble.

Show confidence and a good attitude. Even if you are nervous, try not to act afraid or worried. This is an important day for you. You will do well if you are prepared and honest. Try not to worry!