

## **Dressing for the Interview at a Business Casual Environment**

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Today is your big interview for the job you've been dreaming about your entire life. Your best suit is fresh from the cleaners, white shirt is pressed, new tie selected, shoes polished, hair freshly cut and you're really confident. However, the people interviewing you will be dressed in blue jeans, boat shoes and the occasional clean tennis shirt. Should you change into your best jeans or stick with the Brooks Brothers uniform to get the job? In today's world of business casual, dress down attire and beachwear office days, you probably have at least a fifty percent chance of this situation being a reality.

So what should one do? Dress like your potential new employer or follow the traditional interview uniform? The answer from talking with many of those in the staffing industry is pretty clear. The traditional interview uniform is recommended by ninety percent plus of the employers we surveyed. The majority lean toward the traditional blue suit, white shirt/blouse, conservative dark shoes/pumps with appropriate tie/scarf. Comments include:

- "Dress like the traditional IBM sales representative."
- "The potential employer will treat you with respect if you dress for business."
- "During the interview, you need to exude confidence and a blue suit is part of the confidence costume."

If a blue suit will tip off your current company that you are interviewing, at least explain to the interviewer ahead of time that the typical dress in his or her current workplace is one of either business casual or formal business, and ask if he or she would mind if you arrive for the interview in typical current employer's attire.

You don't want to risk a statement like the following: "You know, it's really too bad. She was intelligent and very qualified, but I just couldn't get past what she was wearing. She just didn't fit the image of what someone who is trustworthy looks like to me."