

You've just had the call – you've made the cut and been asked to come in to interview for your dream job. Then it dawns on you... you actually have to go in, sit in front of a bunch of strangers and be asked a series of seemingly random questions.

Not only will carefully preparing for your job interview make the whole experience easier, it will increase your chances of getting your dream job.

Here's our tips for preparing for a job interview.

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

Upfront Research

This is the number one cardinal rule. There is nothing more disheartening than meeting a candidate who can't "quite remember" what the role is or who the organisation is.

...and More Research

Seriously - do as much research as you can. Read the ad, dissect the job description, google it, talk to current employees. If you are working with a recruitment company don't be shy about asking for tips around what the employer wants and may ask.

Consider your Skills and Experience

Just as importantly, think about how your skills and experience will apply to this role. The more you think about and consider it, the easier it will be to articulate in the interview.

DURING THE INTERVIEW

The Icebreaker Questions

These questions are about first impressions and most often sound something like "Tell me about yourself?" or "What is it that you think you can bring to this role?" This is your elevator pitch – lead with your strongest selling points. Be concise, relevant and positive. This sets the scene for the interview so it's not the time to be modest or to ramble.

The Nitty Gritty

Interviewers will ask about specific skills, experience or capabilities relevant to the role. The basis for these questions should come from the job description and/or the advertisement. When preparing for your interview, think of at least one good example for each capability they may ask about.

The Closing

Interviewers generally close with some light questions to round out their picture. Hopefully by this stage you'll be feeling more comfortable and you may have been able to glean some ideas about what is really important in the role to weave into your answers. There will also be questions about things like notice periods and referee details so be prepared for these.

Most Importantly...

Be prepared, positive and sound like you are genuinely interested in the role. Good luck!

