

Dancing for your supper 求饭碗需跳舞

Vocabulary: Job interviews 词汇: 求职面试

How do you feel about **job interviews**? I'm never ready for them no matter how I prepare. In my attempts to impress my **prospective employers** I end up talking too much and losing my **train of thought**.

Sometimes they ask difficult questions like: "Where do you see yourself in five years?" These days everything happens so fast that I can hardly think where I'll be even two years from now!



But I can **count myself lucky**. One man in Cardiff had to dance during his interview for a job as a shop assistant at an electronics superstore. He felt **embarrassed**, complained, and the story ended up in the newspapers. The company apologised and invited him to do a new interview. He declined.

Experts say that companies receive too many CVs nowadays and that their **interview panels** have too many **candidates** to talk to. So some are trying **unorthodox** ways to see who **stands out**.

Some interviewers might **unsettle** you by criticising your CV. Simon Mitchell, of leadership consultants DDI, says: "The interviewer will put you under pressure to see how you react. Once you see that it is what they are **driving at**, try to keep calm."

So: control your nerves, research the company you want to work for, think about specific examples of things you've achieved in previous organisations and be prepared to say something intelligent when confronted with the question: "What's your biggest **fault**?"

My friend Jamal came up with a great answer which he said worked for him: "I tend to be a **workaholic**."

My grandmother has some advice too. She says: "Tell them you are too **giving** and offer them some sweets from your bag. This will ensure you leave **a lasting impression**. They will think you're sweet and you'll get the job!"

What about you: would you follow Jamal's advice or my grandmother's?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What is the author's problem with job interviews?
2. What kind of job was the candidate in Cardiff applying for?
3. How should you react when interviewers try to unsettle you?
4. What should you research before going to a job interview?
5. According to Jamal's advice, when should you say you're a 'workaholic'?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My auntie keeps picking on me. She says anything wrong that happens is my _____.

lasting impression	train of thought	fault	advice
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2. Don't be _____ to admit you don't speak Mandarin well. You can always improve your language skills.

unorthodox	embarrassed	prepared	workaholic
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3. It's good to look back on your career and see how much you've _____.

achieved	unsettled	driven at	declined
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4. You have to greet the _____ with a handshake and a smile.

job interview	company	crowd	interview panel
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5. You can _____. The doctor said the lump in your breast is not cancer.

stand out	count yourself lucky	drive at	lose your train of thought
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What is the author's problem with job interviews? **Talking too much, losing their train of thought, and not knowing what to say when the interviewer asks about the author's future.**
2. What role was the candidate in Cardiff applying for? **Shop assistant.**
3. How should you react when interviewers unsettle you? **Keep calm.**
4. What should you research about before going to a job interview? **Information about the company you want to work for.**
5. According to Jamal's advice, when should you say you're a 'workaholic'? **When asked what your biggest fault is.**

Exercise 练习

1. My auntie keeps picking on me. She says anything wrong that happens is my **fault**.
2. Don't be **embarrassed** to admit you don't speak Mandarin well. You can always improve your language skills.
3. It's good to look back on your career and see how much you've **achieved**.
4. You have to greet the **interview panel** with a handshake and a smile.
5. You can **count yourself lucky**. The doctor said the lump in your breast is not cancer.

Glossary 词汇表

a job interview	工作面试
prospective employer	未来的雇主
train of thought	思绪
to count (myself) lucky	算我有运气
embarrassed	尴尬的
an interview panel	面试小组
a candidate	候选人
unorthodox	非正统的, 不寻常的
to stand out	脱颖而出
to unsettle	(令人) 感到不安
to drive at	用意
fault	缺点
a workaholic	工作狂
giving	给予, 施舍
a lasting impression	持久的印象