



How to Prepare for a Video Interview

In today's world, just the push of a single button can have you in contact with someone halfway around the world. With technology making communication so available, more job seekers than ever are being asked to hop online for a video interview. While many people chat with friends and relatives through Skype, FaceTime, and other software, these conversations won't prepare you for a formal job interview. Even if you're comfortable in front of a camera, there are still a few things every job seeker should take into consideration before taking a call with an interviewer.

Here are our tips for preparing for your next video interview:

Wear headphones.

Sure, your computer's speakers work great, but why take the risk? Headphones will eliminate echoes and other distracting background noises, plus they'll help you hear your interviewer much more clearly. Also remember to check your settings and your sound inputs and outputs before the call.

Download any necessary software and do a test run.

On the day before the interview (not ten minutes before it is scheduled), make sure your software and all plugins are updated. Make sure to download everything in advanced and be sure it's the latest version designed to work with your operating system. Call a friend or family member to do a test call, if possible. Doing all of this in advance will let you work out any kinks in the technology before your interview.

Think about your background.

Where will you sit? Once you've chosen a location, take a good look around and make sure there is nothing embarrassing or inappropriate within view. Your background should be neutral, but not too boring if you can help it. A blank wall is better than one plastered with inappropriate artwork, but sitting in front of a bookcase or another appropriate setting is best.



Position the camera and consider the lighting.

Position the camera so that it is at your eye level. This will be a more flattering angle. When you have the camera in place, check the lighting. How do you look on screen? If you look washed out or too dark you may need to reposition the camera or adjust the lighting in the room.

Dress professionally.

Don't think that just because this is a video interview you can wear your pajamas. It's still a job interview! Wear the same professional clothing you would to any other interview, but be careful to avoid stripes or patterns as they can render badly on screen. (And, yes, wear pants. What if you need to get up to retrieve a paper or other document? Your interviewer would be able to see your pajama pants... or worse, your underwear! When in doubt, wear pants.) ■