

1.3 TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF



5 Tips to help you do well at interviews

How do you get into the university or the job of your dreams? Even before the interview, you might need to catch someone's attention. The Dean of Admissions at Harvard University says he often receives flowers and chocolates from potential students. One student sent references every day for three months. Eventually, he even sent a letter from his dentist saying how nice his teeth were. He didn't get an interview.



For those of you who do make the interview stage, here are five top tips:

- 1 Be prepared. Do some research about the university or company so you know what questions to ask.
- 2 Dress appropriately. You don't have to dress smartly but you should look clean. And don't wear 'bling' (large pieces of jewellery).
- 3 Arrive on time. Fifteen minutes early is OK.
- 4 Shake hands firmly and make eye contact. First impressions are important.
- 5 Speak clearly and try to offer full answers rather than short responses. This shows your enthusiasm.

1 A Look at the photos. What types of interview could this be? Choose from the list below.

- job interview
- interview for a place at university
- newspaper/magazine interview
- interview for a talk show/radio programme
- placement interview for a language course

B Look at topics 1–3 below and match them to the expressions in the box.

dress smartly 3 speak clearly answer briefly
shake hands firmly send references
arrive on time avoid eye contact be prepared
do some research show enthusiasm

- 1 Should do during an interview
- 2 Shouldn't do during an interview
- 3 Might do before an interview

- 1 What type of things do some people do to get an interview at Harvard University?
- 2 According to the text, what should you do before and during an interview? Do you agree with the advice?

A **1.5** Listen to three extracts from interviews and answer the questions.

- 1 What types of interview are they?
- 2 Which interviewee doesn't follow the five tips? What does he/she do wrong?

Answer the questions about the interview.

Interview 1

- 1 What does the student want to practise?
- 2 What types of classes are in the afternoons?

Interview 2

- 3 What did the girl organise on the summer camp?
- 4 What 'can be difficult' according to the interviewer?

Interview 3

- 5 What does the man want to know?
- 6 Why are online courses more difficult than face-to-face courses, according to the interviewer?

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

- 1 query / I / a / have / do
- 2 I / a / could / question / ask / ?
- 3 like / couple / of / are / about / I'd / things / to / a / ask / there
- 4 ask / you / I / can / that / about / ?
- 5 true / this / opinion / my / isn't / in
- 6 to / I'd / I / agree / have / say
- 7 thing / that / like / I'd / one / say / is / to / is / course / the / difficult
- 8 is / thing / important / most / for / the / me / to / study

A Match expressions 1–5 with expressions a)–e).

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Of course. | a) Please continue. |
| 2 That's right. | b) You're correct. |
| 3 I see. | c) You're welcome. |
| 4 No problem. | d) Yes, definitely. |
| 5 Go ahead. | e) I understand. |

1.4 THE BLIND PAINTER

- 1 What creative or sporting activities are important to you? How would you feel if you couldn't do them any more?
- 2 Which creative or sporting activities would be particularly difficult if you were blind? What problems do you think a blind person would have?

B Read about the programme. What caused Sargy Mann to go blind? What happened after he went totally blind?

The Blind Painter



Sargy Mann painted all of his professional life, first as a teacher and later as a professional artist. In his mid-30s he developed cataracts on both eyes, eventually leading to total blindness. He continued to paint. Twenty-five years later, Sargy's work was very popular with art collectors, with paintings regularly selling for more than £50,000 (US\$80,000). He spoke to BBC News about his life and how he continued to work.



Watch the DVD. What does Sargy use to help him paint? What do you think of his paintings?

Answer the following questions:

- 1 What do you know about Sargy Mann after watching the clip?
- 2 Why did Sargy start to paint again after he went blind?
- 3 How does he use Blu-Tack to help him paint?
- 4 Who buys his artwork?

Complete the following phrases:

sensation go edgy coordinates landscape
nonsense

- 1 The idea of painting when you were totally blind seemed a _____ to me.
- 2 I wonder what would happen if I give that a _____.
- 3 I had the most extraordinary _____.
- 4 Pre total blindness, I would say I was a _____ painter.
- 5 Now the thing about these bits of Blu-Tack of course is that what they are actually is _____.
- 6 They are _____, dangerous. They tell stories, they're full of impact through colour.

Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think that Sargy Mann would have been such a successful artist if he was not blind?
- 2 Can you think of other people who have achieved great things despite physical disabilities?