

THE JOB INTERVIEW FIRST TEN SECONDS IS THE KEY

What you do and say during the first ten seconds of an interview may determine whether you are hired, according to Robert Half, president of Robert Half International.

“If the first impression an interviewer has of a job candidate’s attitude, personality, or appearance is negative, that person runs the risk of being eliminated from any further consideration for the position”.

“The fact is that interviewers, like the rest of us, are very likely to judge a book by its cover”. He advised job seekers to “make that cover as attractive as possible”.

Some prime examples of initial interview behavior that could result in a candidate’s rejection:

- A weak or half-hearted handshake
- Failure to maintain eye contact, indicating a lack of self-confidence
- Slouching in the chair or looking either uninterested or intimidated
- Lack of enthusiasm or responsiveness
- Poor grooming or inappropriate dress
- A hostile or abrasive attitude
- Boastfulness, egotism, or being overly aggressive
- Acting as if the candidate is doing the interviewer a favor by being there
- Treating support staff in a cavalier, or condescending manner

“Serious job candidates take the job search seriously. They know that the first impression they make on the interviewer is, almost always, going to be the lasting impression”.