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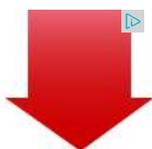
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5 weird job interview behaviors



Photo: [Kristin Smith](#)

Experts say that during a [job interview](#), it's always good to showcase your personality so that you don't come off as a Stepford drone of an employee. But does that mean you should [let it all hang out](#)? Some job candidates seem to think so—and hiring [managers](#) are not impressed.

According to a [CareerBuilder.com](#) survey, some job candidates just don't know how to act during an interview. Survey participants cited the usual suspects that will turn potential employers off during a job interview—such as [texting](#), being unprepared, and wearing inappropriate dress—but they also observed some behaviors that are just off the wall.

Your job is like a red, red rose. Some people love [poetry](#), but usually not during a job interview. Reciting poetry during a job interview won't make you look erudite—it'll just make you look looney.

Throw it against the wall to see what sticks. Many people are trying to get any job they can these days, but some candidates are taking this a little bit too far during their search for employment. One hiring manager said that an applicant was being considered for an accounting job, but blurted out during the interview that he's "bad at managing money." Another wanted a position in customer service and told the interviewer "I don't really like working with people."

Dog day afternoon. Some employers are progressive enough to allow workers to bring their pets to the office, but these situations are few and far between. And even if you can let Fido ride shotgun in your cubicle, the dog should probably stay home during your job interview. One hiring manager told CareerBuilder that a candidate had his dog tied up in the parking lot during his interview and abruptly ran out of the meeting when the pooch got loose.

Wandering eyes. The importance of [nonverbal communication](#) during a job interview cannot be stressed enough. When it comes to eye contact, you don't want to stare at someone, but you also don't want to avoid making eye contact at all. According to CareerBuilder, one job candidate not only avoided looking the interviewer in the eye—they stared at the ceiling during the entire job interview.

Arrested development. Showing a potential employer that you're a team player is a good thing. But citing your prowess in [Dungeons and Dragons](#) to illustrate this will slay your chances of landing the job.

Although it's good to be different in the [workplace](#) to some degree, when you're going on a job interview, it's best to leave your [idiosyncrasies](#) at the door.

"With heightened competition for open positions in today's economy, it's important for candidates to put their best foot forward in an interview," said Rosemary Haefner, Vice President of Human Resources at CareerBuilder. "You want to stand out for the right reasons. Even though the [job search](#) process can be frustrating, candidates should stay positive, focus on their strengths and be prepared on how to best sell their skill set."

(Source: Employers Reveal the Outrageous and Common Mistakes Candidates Made in Job Interviews, According to New CareerBuilder Survey. Retrieved from [www.careerbuilder.com](#).)

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This article originally appeared on my [Workplace Communication Examiner](#) page on March 15, 2010.

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Posted by Kenya McCullum at [September 23, 2010](#)

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