

10 most dreadful interview mishaps

Part 2 of 2

LIMP handshake. Your handshake expresses who you are. Therefore, a limp handshake during a job interview is never a good thing because it exudes weakness, passivity, and introversion; traits that most employers are definitely not looking for. In contrast, a crushing handshake does not scream confidence at all, but hidden aggression, which is also never a good trait.

Solution: Practice a firm and confident handshake. Once you and the interviewer's palms touch, take a good grip and give two short pumps. This way, you will radiate confidence and also stress your interest in the job.

Distracting tendencies and mannerisms. Chewing gum, scratching your neck, nose and other body parts, fidgeting, nodding hurriedly, leaning towards the door, looking at your watch more than once, slouching on your seat, crossing your legs, crossing your arms on your chest, thumbing through your mobile device, failing to turn off your mobile devices, among others are activities that must be avoided

Solution: Practice a firm and confident handshake. Once you and the interviewer's palms touch, take a good grip and give two short pumps. This way, you will radiate confidence and also stress your interest in the job.

Solution: Be still in your seat, sit straight up with your feet firmly planted on the ground and your arms laid on the table. Make direct eye contact, nod slowly, if you agree with your interviewer, and never fail to turn off your mobile devices.

Airing grievances. Personal problems must be kept private. Blowouts between you and your past employers must be kept in the past and never be brought up with the interviewer, who is, at the moment, your potential employer.

Solution: Think of other credible and legitimate reasons for leaving your past employment, be it personal or professional ("I have reached my career objective in that company and have opted to look for another company to contribute my skills and experiences to effect growth.")

"No Questions." An interviewer asking this question simply wants to know how interested you are in the job and the company. So telling the interviewer that you have "no questions" means that either you're not interested

or you have nothing to offer.

Solution: As an applicant, seizing this opportunity to highlight your skills and experiences that have not been adequately discussed in the interview is the best move you can make to up your chances of landing the job. It is also the best time to ask for the activities the job will entail and reiterating that you are the best person for the job will surely not hurt, unless you plan to ask the "off limits" questions.

Asking the "Off Limits" questions. Questions pertaining to salary, vacations, paid sick leave, bonuses, and other benefits are "off limits." Interviewers raise the issue of compensation to express interest in hiring you. The key is to strike a compromise between the compensation the company is willing to offer and what you think your services are worth.

Solution: Discuss with your agency your salary expectations ahead of the interview and let your agency handle salary negotiations should the figures differ from that of your agency.

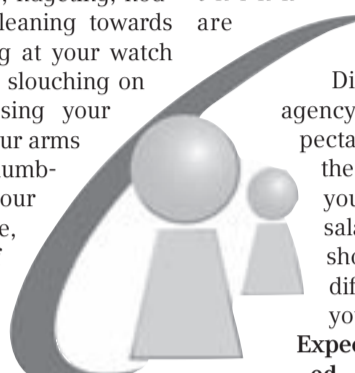
Expect the unexpected. Walking blindly in an interview without

knowing anything about the position or the company is a mistake. Your past employment, your ability to perform the tasks required for the position, and your problem-solving skills will be scrutinized. Your behavior before, during, and after the interview will be assessed as well.

Solution: Be prepared. Obtaining potential interview questions will greatly help you prepare your responses and avoid that Q&A-like moment from a beauty pageant. Furthermore, tips on how to conduct yourself in an interview will surely guide you to increasing your chances of getting hired. Your agency should be of great help in these areas.

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Azucena-Valencia Law Corporation's Mission: Highly skilled representation with a personal approach

THE founder of Azucena-Valencia Law Corporation, Atty. Myra Valencia Azucena, migrated from the Philippines to the US at age five. Determined to succeed in the field of immigration law, Atty. Azucena became a diligent student and was admitted to practice law at the age of 25. Hardwork and the desire for families to be reunited in the US are foremost in her mind. She takes her own personal experiences to heart and incorporates them in her practice. She has been practicing exclusively in immigration law for over three years. At the age of 28, she became a partner at a large firm and left this year to begin her own practice. She is a member of the Pilipino American Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the State Bar of California. She is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of California and the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Atty. Myra Valencia Azucena has successfully litigated hundreds of cases before the Executive Office of Immigration Review, Immigration Court and the United States Citizenship Service. She has experience in asylum, criminal waivers and fraud waivers, adjustment of status, residency under the Child Status Protection Act, naturalization, as well as applications for immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

She is also an active member in the Filipino community. She became a scholarship recipient of the Filipino American Bar Association of San Diego while pursuing her education in law, to sit for the California State Bar Exam. She is committed to public interest work and has received numerous awards for her dedication.

Myra Valencia Azucena has a true passion for other cultures. She

Hardwork and the desire for families to be reunited in the US are foremost in Atty. Myra Valencia Azucena's mind. She takes her own personal experiences to heart and incorporates them in her practice.

travels frequently to gain a deeper understanding of the world and brings these experiences home with her. As an immigration attorney, Mrs. Azucena takes pride in the success of her clients. She loves making a difference in the lives of others.

Located at the heart of the financial district in Pasadena, the Azucena-Valencia Law Corporation formally opened its doors on September 1, 2008. Atty. Azucena and her highly-competent staff work closely with their clients — people who want to live and work in the US — to ensure that all their needs are provided. They go out of their way to build personal and lasting relationships with their clients. Atty. Azucena and her team are passionate about uniting families.

The law firm is dedicated to the practice of immigration law and offers competent legal services in all areas of immigration law. They offer an hour of free consultation. For more information about their services, please call (626) 240-4654. Visit www.azvalaw.com or their office at 1055 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 500 Pasadena, CA 91106.

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She has a true passion for other cultures. She travels frequently to gain a deeper understanding of the world and brings these experiences home with her.

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Comparison test bares new reasons to buy Mazda 6

SINCE its introduction for the 2003 model year, the Mazda6 has wowed numerous driving enthusiasts, earning it more than 70 awards for automotive excellence since then. Now, in a recent comparison test against Honda Accord and Nissan Altima, the 2009 Mazda 6 emerged winner once again.

Chris Walton, Chief Road Test Editor, revealed that their recent test of the 2009 Mazda 6 s Grand Touring has proven that along with the ideal elements found in Mazda as a family sedan, it can still offer sporting dynamics. In the long run, the test deduced that this new car still has that zoom-zoom factor that Mazda has always had.

The report notes: "The Mazda 6 has, indeed, found that sweet spot between the well-designed, highly competent and yet somewhat generic Honda Accord and the more highly strung yet modestly priced Nissan Altima. The Mazda 6 combines both sense and sensibility, and it does so with a style that inspires comparison to cars further up the evolutionary scale like the Acura TSX or Nissan Maxima."

This top-of-the-line Mazda dethroned the 2008 Honda Accord EX-L Navi, the winner of the last comparison test of family sedans. The \$30,690 2009 Mazda 6 s Grand Touring earned a total of 70.3 points for a 1st-place finish. Second place went to the \$30,930 2008 Honda Accord EX-L Navi with 66.3 points. The \$27,275 2008 Nissan Altima 3.5 SE CVT came in third.

The test shows Mazda has the most power, thanks to its 272-horsepower 3.7-liter V6. This makes the heaviest car of this trio the quickest.

The test's fuel-economy logbook shows the Mazda to be the easiest on fuel. As inferred, it could be because this 3.7-liter V6 offers the highest torque at the lowest rpm, thus the Mazda 6 doesn't have to be driven as aggressively as the others.

The test also found out that in terms of real power, the Mazda 6 went through the quarter-mile in 14.7 seconds at 95.6 mph, ahead of the other two brands.

Also worth noting is that Mazda's six-speed automatic transmission can be shifted manually for added control or exhilaration, with shifts that are crisp and positive—a better-than-average automatic from Japan.

The test track results also prove the Mazda 6 the best handler. Its 0.81g on the skid pad represents the most stick and its 66.4-mph run through the slalom leads the pack.

Just like the people behind this test, Star Mazda of the Star Auto Group has always believed that a family sedan can still be fun to drive. So why have second thoughts on driving home a Mazda? Don't miss the fun for you and your family. Visit Star Mazda at 901 S Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA. Call (888) 439-1414 (Sales); (818) 247-1903 (Service); (818) 247-1883 (Parts).

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