



Interviewing Over a Meal

Handling a job interview over a meal doesn't have to spell disaster.

Just like any other job interview, you need to prepare in advance.



Prepare in Advance

- Practice job interview techniques
- Review your list of accomplishments
- Be engaged and involved in the entire job interview process
- Ask appropriate questions
- Dress appropriately for the interview



Five Things to Consider When Interviewing Over A Meal

However, after all the basics are done, there are five additional things to remember when interviewing for a job over a meal:



Before the Meal

- To be on the safe side, check out the restaurant in advance or arrive a little early.
- Be sure to get directions to the location and determine the parking situation (valet or self-parking).
- Locate the restrooms.
- Preview the menu to decide what might be the best dining option.



Be Polite

- As in any interview, you should always be on your best behavior. If any issues arise (problem with your meal or the service), be diplomatic. And be sure to thank the server as well as the interviewer.



- Remember... your social skills are being assessed, as well as your ability to perform under pressure.

Table Manners

- Remember your table manners:
 - No elbows on the table
 - The napkin goes in your lap
 - No speaking with food in your mouth
- Turn off your cell phone or pager.



About the Meal

- Stay away from messy food. Go for something simple.
- Don't look at this as a “freebie” and order the most expensive item on the menu, even if it is your favorite.
- ABSOLUTELY no alcohol or dessert. Looking like a glutton is not the way to impress.
- If it's a group interview, don't begin to eat until everyone is served.



Paying for the Meal

- Most often, the employer pays for the meal... after all, they extended the invitation.
- Don't try to be diplomatic and offer to pay... it's inappropriate and could prove embarrassing.



- In conclusion, interviewing for a job over a meal has many of the same characteristics as any other interview situation... it's just a matter of politely slipping in responses to questions between mouthfuls.





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