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### **Preparing for your ESL Teaching Interview**

**What to expect:** They all vary – some will ask detailed questions about your approach and method of teaching – try to use some good *buzz* words for Korea such as *student centered lesson, lesson plan, conversational approach, outgoing, helping to overcome shyness, helping the language student to gain confidence, pronunciation, homework*. They love to hear, *Passion* for teaching.

Most interviews are to hear your **voice and how clear it is**. Your manners and politeness is also quite important. This is because if they go to the interview stage, they are already sold on you and your resume and most importantly in Korea (usually) your photo. If they can understand you; “your English is good” in their eyes (for most employers). They want their students to say that, “I can understand Mr. (or Miss/Mrs. ) ?? Teacher, their voice is so clear and their explanation good, their English is good = they are a good teacher.”

They also like people who seem genuinely fun, interesting and easy to get along with. Are you a people person?

\*It is useful in the interview if you express a sincere interest in going to Korea and a passion for teaching English.

If you are the kind of person who truly enjoys learning about a new culture, people, food and country – do indeed express this to the interviewer. Most want people who want to go to Korea and learn about Korea – Korean culture is beautiful and old, they will often comment on the long history and local famous foods and places to see, don't be shy to use compliments and flattery, everyone loves it and with private schools it will go a long way. With the more academic positions such as at universities it may not work as much, they will be more serious and there is a more competition for those jobs. Remember, the

private schools are businesses and they depend on repeated and new business to stay open, reach their goals. This means having the right teachers (I will repeat this again and again). Good teachers = good word of mouth advertising for them and everyone is happy, their business will be more secure.

Also – they will want to hear that you have a “**Passion – Passion - Passion**” for teaching. Any business owner wants to know that the employees they hire are the right ones, if you can please the students by showing a keen interest in teaching English they will like you because you will be good for their business. Also, try to think of examples from your past which you could apply to the interview – eg “I am always excited about my job,, and I am very excited about coming to teach English at your school.

They like to hear that people are interested in the possibility of staying for more than 1 year.

\*\*Your voice and pronunciation are extremely important (as is your photo for getting you the interview). You should take care to talk slowly (not too slow), have a clear and easy to understand voice and as neutral an accent as you can. It is good to be excited, but not out of hand, you should also be sure to NEVER mumble. It is also not recommended to *not be over-inquisitive in the interview*. Do not do anything to give them the feeling that you will be a difficult employee, but the opposite, a good employee who will be easy to get along with and one who will be liked by the students. (this will mean that they will continue to enroll in the school and also word of mouth advertising will bring in more business – this is what keeps any business running and your salary paid).

Last point – **relax**. Getting the interview nearly means you have got the job – just follow these pointers and your chances of getting the job should be about 99.9%.

If you have any questions just let us know.

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**Please Prepare the Following Now and have it with you and ready to send once you are hired:**

- 1) Your **original university degree** (or notarized copy - must be notarized by Korean consulate only they will not accept the notary of anyone else including local lawyers, etc.- this can take time, most people do send their original).
- 2) **Original Official transcripts** in a SEALED envelope from the university (it is important that the envelope has not been opened) you can order these now from your university, have them sent to you, just do not open the envelope.
- 3) Two color passport sized photos. (get 4 or 5, you will need them soon for the visa process and in Korea for foreigner registration ID Card)
- 4) Photocopy of your passport information page (shows your photo, validity, birthdate, name, etc..)