English at Work Episode 1: The interview

Language for interviews



Narrator: Hold tight please! This is Anna, on a bus going to an interview for a job as

a sales executive at Tip Top Trading - one of London's fastest growing

companies. How are you feeling Anna?

Anna: Oh, a little nervous but I really want this job.

Narrator: Well don't worry Anna, as long as you say the right things, you'll be fine.

Anna: The right things!? Like what?

Narrator: You need to sell yourself, be confident, not arrogant and give examples.

Like: A good example that comes to mind.

I'm particularly proud of.

Timekeeping is important to me.

Anna: Oh right. Thanks. Perhaps you can come with me?

Narrator: Sorry Anna, you're on your own now – but we'll be listening in. Look!

You've just arrived. Good luck!

Paul: Come in. Hello, I'm Paul, the Manager of Tip Top Trading. And you must

be....?

Anna: It's Anna.

Paul: Yes, very good. Thanks for coming. Now somewhere in this pile, I've got

your CV...

Anna: Err, is that it there?

Paul: Oh yes, thanks Hannah. Your qualifications look impressive but what sales

experience can you bring to our company?

Anna: I worked in a shop once.

Narrator: Ohhh Anna! Sell yourself. Give a good example!

Anna: Oh right...mmm....well a good example that comes to mind is when I was

involved with a campaign to promote and sell a new range of

clothes - I loved doing it and it was...

Denise: Oh sorry, excuse me, here's your tea Paul.

Paul: Thanks Denise. Now Anna, it looks like you've achieved a lot during

your time at university. Could you give me an example of good team

working during your time there?

Denise: Sorry! I forgot the sugar.

Paul: Thank you Denise.

Anna: Hmm, so you want an example? I was the treasurer of the debating

society at university. That was OK I suppose.

Narrator: Come on Anna. Be more enthusiastic – the debating society is exciting!

Anna: I mean... I'm particularly proud of how I organised the finances for the

debating society. We had a very small budget and I had to make decisions

on what to buy.

Narrator: I like it! "I'm particularly proud of" - Positive but not boasting. You're doing

well.

Paul: Very impressive – so you're a good planner Anna! We like organised people

here... ooops, silly me. I seemed to have spilt tea over your CV.

Anna: Oh, do you need some help?

Paul: Oh no...I'm sure it'll dry out... carry on please...

Anna: Also... timekeeping is important to me...

Narrator: "Timekeeping is important to me" – that's good!

Anna: I always try to complete my work on time. At university I never

handed my assignments in late.

Paul: That's good to hear. We like punctuality here...

Denise: Excuse me Paul. Sorry it's a bit late – but I thought you might like a biscuit

with your tea.

Paul: Hmm thanks....oh lovely, custard creams... mmm. Now Hannah, finally I

wanted to ask you what exactly made you apply for this job at this

company?

Anna: Errrr... ooo... well. The reason I applied is....

Narrator: Yes, yes, yes Anna? Do you need a bit more time to think?

Anna: Errr...mmm...

Narrator: What's she going to say? How would <u>you</u> answer that? Join us next time

to find out. Before we go, here's a reminder of some of the great lines

Anna's used today...

A good example that comes to mind I'm particularly proud of. Timekeeping is important to me.

Until next time, bye bye!

• Listening comprehension question What was Anna's role in the university debating society? She was treasurer.