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Level 6

Brown shoes could mean failed job interview

6th September, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

University graduates hoping to get a job as an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview. A new report highlights how the investment banking industry in the UK follows centuries-old, unwritten rules about how bankers should conduct themselves. The study was undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at how the industry selected people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" codes of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is generally considered unacceptable...within investment banking."

The survey suggested that people from working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from middle and upper classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt like my accent was a bit out of place, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated against those who did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small handful of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...that some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than on their skills and potential."

Sources: <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/09/01/wearing-brown-shoes-could-lose-you-a-banking-job-in-uk.html>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/01/candidates-miss-out-on-financial-jobs-because-they-wear-brown-sh/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37244180>

WARM-UPS

1. JOB INTERVIEWS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about job interviews. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

graduates / investment / banking / job interview / industry / code of conduct / suit / survey / behaviour / middle classes / discriminated / working class / shocking / skills

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. UNIFORMS: Students A **strongly** believe everyone should wear the same uniform to work; Students B **strongly** believe no one should wear uniforms. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. INTERVIEWS: What should you do to pass a job interview? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What to do	What not to do
Dress		
Punctuality		
Mood		
What to talk about		
Research		
Ask questions		

5. SHOES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "shoes". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. CANDIDATE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things a candidate needs at a job interview at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- nice shoes
- a nice smile
- confidence
- qualifications
- work experience
- good clothes
- politeness
- a firm handshake

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article said high school graduates could be disappointed. **T / F**
- b. A study said the investment banking industry follows unwritten rules. **T / F**
- c. The study said the industry's code of conduct is very unclear. **T / F**
- d. Brown shoes were generally unacceptable for investment bankers. **T / F**
- e. The study said people from upper-class backgrounds had to change. **T / F**
- f. A new banker had to change his/her accent to fit in. **T / F**
- g. Most investment bankers did not go to an elite university. **T / F**
- h. Investment bank managers always judge a candidate on potential. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. hoping | a. on the whole |
| 2. disappointed | b. chosen |
| 3. undertaken | c. appalling |
| 4. selected | d. let down |
| 5. generally | e. manner |
| 6. behaviour | f. top |
| 7. changed | g. wishing for |
| 8. elite | h. promise |
| 9. shocking | i. done |
| 10. potential | j. amended |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. graduates hoping to get a job | a. of place |
| 2. could be | b. considered unacceptable |
| 3. unwritten | c. candidates |
| 4. codes of | d. disappointed |
| 5. a business suit is generally | e. class backgrounds |
| 6. people from working | f. as an investment banker |
| 7. change their behaviour to | g. rules |
| 8. I felt like my accent was a bit out | h. out of top jobs |
| 9. systematically locked | i. conduct |
| 10. judge | j. fit in |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

University graduates (1) _____ to get a job as an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview. A new report (2) _____ how the investment banking industry in the UK follows centuries-old, (3) _____ rules about how bankers should (4) _____ themselves. The study was undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at how the industry (5) _____ people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" (6) _____ of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is (7) _____ considered unacceptable...(8) _____ investment banking."

hoping
selected
highlights
within
conduct
generally
unwritten
codes

The survey suggested that people from working (9) _____ backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from middle and (10) _____ classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt like my (11) _____ was a bit out of place, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated (12) _____ those who did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are being (13) _____ locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small (14) _____ of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...that some investment bank managers still (15) _____ candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than on their skills and (16) _____."

upper
systematically
judge
class
potential
against
handful
accent

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

- 1) graduates hoping to get a job as an investment banker in London _____
 - a. could be disappointed
 - b. could be disappointed
 - c. could be disappointment
 - d. could be disappointment
- 2) follows centuries-old, unwritten rules about how bankers should _____
 - a. conduct themselves
 - b. contract themselves
 - c. conduct themselves
 - d. combat themselves
- 3) Researchers looked at how the industry selected people _____
 - a. on job interviews
 - b. by job interviews
 - c. in job interviews
 - d. of job interviews
- 4) They found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" _____
 - a. codes have conduct
 - b. codes of conduct
 - c. codes for conduct
 - d. codes of conduct
- 5) brown shoes with a business suit is generally _____
 - a. considered unacceptable
 - b. considering unacceptable
 - c. considered non-acceptable
 - d. considered unacceptably
- 6) people from working class backgrounds had to change their _____
 - a. behaviour to fit up
 - b. behaviour to fit out
 - c. behaviour to fit in
 - d. behaviour to fit over
- 7) I felt like my accent was a bit out of place, _____
 - a. so I changed it
 - b. so I changed it
 - c. so I changed it
 - d. so I change it
- 8) the industry discriminated against those who did not go _____
 - a. two elite universities
 - b. to elite universities
 - c. too elite universities
 - d. top elite universities
- 9) Bright, working-class kids are being systematically _____
 - a. locked up
 - b. locked out
 - c. locked in
 - d. locked down
- 10) whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than on their _____
 - a. skills and potentially
 - b. skillful and potential
 - c. skills and potential
 - d. skillful and potentials

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

University graduates hoping (1) _____ an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview. A new report (2) _____ investment banking industry in the UK follows centuries-old, (3) _____ how bankers should conduct themselves. The study was undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at how the industry (4) _____ job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" (5) _____. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is generally (6) _____ ...within investment banking."

The survey suggested (7) _____ working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour (8) _____ bankers who were from middle and upper classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt like my accent was a (9) _____, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated (10) _____ did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they (11) _____ a small handful of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...that some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather (12) _____ and potential."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

1. What kind of graduates could be disappointed?
2. How old are the unwritten rules the investment banking industry follows?
3. Who looked at how the industry selected people in interviews?
4. What was described as being 'relatively opaque'?
5. What is considered unacceptable in the investment banking industry?
6. What did working class people have to change to fit in?
7. What did one banker have to change to not feel out of place?
8. What kind of universities do investment bankers usually come from?
9. Who is being systematically locked out of top investment banking jobs?
10. What are candidates not being judged on?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

- 1) What kind of graduates could be disappointed?
 - a) technical college graduates
 - b) high school graduates
 - c) university graduates
 - d) undergraduates
- 2) How old are the unwritten rules the investment banking industry follows?
 - a) centuries old
 - b) 87 years old
 - c) no one knows
 - d) it didn't say
- 3) Who looked at how the industry selected people in interviews?
 - a) researchers
 - b) bankers
 - c) universities
 - d) candidates
- 4) What was described as being 'relatively opaque'?
 - a) glass
 - b) codes of conduct
 - c) transparency
 - d) investments
- 5) What is considered unacceptable in the investment banking industry?
 - a) cheating
 - b) causing global financial collapses
 - c) taking unnecessary risks
 - d) wearing brown shoes
- 6) What did working class people have to change to fit in?
 - a) their investments
 - b) their behaviour
 - c) their shoes
 - d) their careers
- 7) What did one banker have to change to not feel out of place?
 - a) his/her accent
 - b) his/her career
 - c) his/her university
 - d) his/her hairstyle
- 8) What kind of universities do investment bankers usually come from?
 - a) public universities
 - b) online universities
 - c) elite universities
 - d) financial universities
- 9) Who is being systematically locked out of top investment banking jobs?
 - a) candidates
 - b) graduates
 - c) upper-class kids
 - d) working-class kids
- 10) What are candidates not being judged on?
 - a) skills and potential
 - b) background
 - c) shoes
 - d) maths ability

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

Role A – Nice shoes

You think nice shoes are most important in an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, qualifications or a firm handshake.

Role B – Confidence

You think confidence is most important in an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): nice shoes, qualifications or a firm handshake.

Role C – Qualifications

You think qualifications are most important in an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, nice shoes or a firm handshake.

Role D – A firm handshake

You think a firm handshake is most important in an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, qualifications or nice shoes.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'job' and 'interview'.

job	interview
------------	------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hoping• follows• undertaken• how• codes• within	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• suggested• middle• accent• kids• small• rather
--	---

JOB INTERVIEWS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

Write five GOOD questions about job interviews in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

JOB INTERVIEWS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'interview'?
3. What experience do you have with job interviews?
4. What's the best way to pass interviews?
5. What do investment bankers do?
6. What kind of clothes are best to wear at an interview?
7. What kind of code of conduct should investment bankers follow?
8. What do you think about what you read?
9. Are black shoes better than brown shoes?
10. What advice do you have for people going for a job interview?

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JOB INTERVIEWS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Are there different classes of people in your society?
13. What is wrong with all investment bankers being upper class?
14. Do people discriminate against accents in your country?
15. What difficult questions have you had at a job interview?
16. Should people from elite universities get the best jobs?
17. Should unsuccessful candidates be able to sue companies?
18. What skills do you have that would impress in a job interview?
19. Should all workers wear the same clothes?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

University graduates (1) _____ to get a job as an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview. A new report (2) _____ how the investment banking industry in the UK (3) _____ centuries-old, unwritten rules about how bankers should (4) _____ themselves. The study was undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at how the industry selected people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "(5) _____ opaque" codes of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is (6) _____ considered unacceptable...within investment banking."

The survey (7) _____ that people from working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from middle and upper classes. One (8) _____-appointed banker said: "I felt like my accent was a bit out (9) _____ place, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated against (10) _____ who did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small (11) _____ of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...that some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, (12) _____ than on their skills and potential."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) hopping | (b) whopping | (c) hooping | (d) hoping |
| 2. | (a) high society | (b) high-powers | (c) lowlights | (d) highlights |
| 3. | (a) chases | (b) follows | (c) tails | (d) stalks |
| 4. | (a) contract | (b) combat | (c) conduct | (d) conduit |
| 5. | (a) relatively | (b) relative | (c) relations | (d) relativity |
| 6. | (a) generally | (b) generalize | (c) genially | (d) genie |
| 7. | (a) suggestion | (b) suggest | (c) suggestive | (d) suggested |
| 8. | (a) newly | (b) news | (c) new | (d) newish |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) as | (d) up |
| 10. | (a) them | (b) us | (c) those | (d) that |
| 11. | (a) eyeful | (b) stomachful | (c) handful | (d) headful |
| 12. | (a) instead | (b) rather | (c) prefer | (d) if |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

Paragraph 1

1. University daausegrt hoping to get a job
2. could be dpaiitdonsep
3. the investment banking ditsryun
4. tesrecuni-old
5. relatively puqeoa codes of conduct
6. generally considered cenebclautpa

Paragraph 2

7. change their irhabuoev (UK) / ieahborv (USA)
8. my tcenac was a bit out of place
9. eicdrisidtman against those who did not go
10. teile universities
11. judge satnedidac
12. their skills and totnaplei

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The survey suggested that people from working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit
- () was a bit out of place, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated against those who did not go to
- (**1**) University graduates hoping to get a job as an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear
- () opaque" codes of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit
- () undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked
- () in with bankers who were from middle and upper classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt like my accent
- () brown shoes to their job interview. A new report highlights how the investment banking industry
- () handful of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...that some investment bank managers still
- () at how the industry selected people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "relatively
- () in the UK follows centuries-old, unwritten rules about how bankers should conduct themselves. The study was
- () being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small
- () is generally considered unacceptable...within investment banking."
- () judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than on their skills and potential."
- () elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

1. investment hoping a an Graduates get as banker to job .
2. about rules Unwritten themselves conduct should bankers how .
3. looked Researchers people selected industry the how at .
4. by governed was industry The codes opaque relatively .
5. considered Generally banking investment within unacceptable .
6. of like place my so accent I was changed a it bit I out felt .
7. industry did discriminated not against go those The who .
8. Systematically jobs locked in out investment of banking top .
9. not small elite did a of They attend handful universities .
10. Judge shoes brown wear they whether on candidates .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

University graduates *hoping / hopping* to get a job as an investment banker in London could be *disappointment / disappointed* if they wear brown shoes to their job *interviewee / interview*. A new report highlights how the investment banking industry in the UK *following / follows* centuries-old, unwritten *rules / rulers* about how bankers should *contract / conduct* themselves. The study was *overtaken / undertaken* by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at *how / what* the industry selected people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed *of / by* "relatively opaque" codes of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is generally considered unacceptable...*within / without* investment banking."

The survey *suggestive / suggested* that people from working class backgrounds had to *change / charge* their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from *middle / centre* and upper classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt *like / so* my accent was a bit out of place, so I changed it." The study also said the *industry / industrial* discriminated against *those / them* who did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are *being / been* systematically locked *up / out* of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small handful of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking...*what / that* some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than *on / in* their skills and potential."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

_n_v_rs_ty gr_d__t_s h_p_ng t_ g_t _ j_b _s _n
_nv_stm_nt b_nk_r _n L_nd_n c__ld b_ d_s_pp__nt_d
_f th_y w__r br_wn sh__s t_ th__r j_b _nt_rv__w. _
n_w r_p_rt h_ghl_ghts h_w th_ _nv_stm_nt b_nk_ng
_nd_stry _n th_ _K f_ll_ws c_nt_r__s-_ld, _nwr_tt_n
r_l_s _b__t h_w b_nk_rs sh__ld c_nd_ct th_ms_lv_s.
Th_ st_dy w_s _nd_rt_k_n by th_ Br_t_sh g_v_rnm_nt's
S_c__l M_b_l_t_y C_mm_ss__n. R_s__rch_rs l__k_d _t
h_w th_ _nd_stry s_l_ct_d p__pl_ _n j_b _nt_rv__ws.
Th_y f__nd th_t th_ _nd_stry w_s g_v_rn_d by
"r_l_t_v_ly _p_q__" c_d_s _f c_nd_ct. Th_y wr_t_: "F_r
m_n, th_ w__r_ng _f br_wn sh__s w_th _ b_s_n_ss s__t
_s _g_n_r_lly _c_ns_d_r_d _n_cc_pt_bl_...w_th_n
_nv_stm_nt b_nk_ng."

Th_ s_rv_y s_gg_st_d th_t p__pl_ fr_m w_rk_ng cl_ss
b_ckgr__nds h_d t_ ch_ng_ th__r b_h_v__r t_ f_t _n
w_th b_nk_rs wh_ w_r_ fr_m m_ddl_ _nd _pp_r cl_ss_s.
n n_wly-_pp__nt_d b_nk_r s__d: "_ f_lt l_k_ my
_cc_nt w_s _b__t __t _f pl_c_, s__ _ch_ng_d _t." Th_
st_dy _ls_ s__d th_ _nd_stry d_scr_m_n_t_d _g__nst
th_s_ wh_ d_d_n_t g_ t_ _l_t_ _n_v_rs_t__s. Th_
C_mm_ss__n's ch__rm_n s__d: "Br_ght, w_rk_ng-cl_ss
k_ds _r_ b__ng syst_m_t_c_lly l_k_d __t _f t_p_j_bs
_n _nv_stm_nt b_nk_ng b_c__s_ th_y d_d_n_t _tt_nd _
sm_ll h_ndf_l _f _l_t_ _n_v_rs_t__s." H__dd_d: "_t_s
sh_ck_ng...th_t s_m_ _nv_stm_nt b_nk_m_n_g_rs st_ll
j_dg_ c_nd_d_t_s _n wh_th_r th_y w__r br_wn sh__s
w_th _ s__t, r_th_r th_n _n th__r sk_lls _nd
p_t_nt__l."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160906-job-interview.html>

university graduates hoping to get a job as an investment banker in london could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview a new report highlights how the investment banking industry in the uk follows centuries-old unwritten rules about how bankers should conduct themselves the study was undertaken by the british government's social mobility commission researchers looked at how the industry selected people in job interviews they found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" codes of conduct they wrote "for men the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is generally considered unacceptable...within investment banking"

the survey suggested that people from working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from middle and upper classes one newly-appointed banker said "i felt like my accent was a bit out of place so i changed it" the study also said the industry discriminated against those who did not go to elite universities the commission's chairman said "bright working-class kids are being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small handful of elite universities" he added "it is shocking...that some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit rather than on their skills and potential"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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University graduates hoping to get a job as an investment banker in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes to their job interview. A new report highlights how the investment banking industry in the UK follows centuries-old, unwritten rules about how bankers should conduct themselves. The study was undertaken by the British government's Social Mobility Commission. Researchers looked at how the industry selects people in job interviews. They found that the industry was governed by "relatively opaque" codes of conduct. They wrote: "For men, the wearing of brown shoes with a business suit is generally considered unacceptable ... within investment banking." The surveys suggested that people from working class backgrounds had to change their behaviour to fit in with bankers who were from middle and upper classes. One newly-appointed banker said: "I felt like my accent was a bit out of place, so I changed it." The study also said the industry discriminated against those who did not go to elite universities. The Commission's chairman said: "Bright, working-class kids are being systematically locked out of top jobs in investment banking because they did not attend a small handful of elite universities." He added: "It is shocking ... that some investment bank managers still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes with a suit, rather than on their skills and potential."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about job interviews. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. JOB INTERVIEWS: Make a poster about how to pass interviews. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DRESS CODES: Write a magazine article about having to wear the right clothes in job interviews. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on job interviews. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to pass them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d T e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. hoping | a. wishing for |
| 2. disappointed | b. let down |
| 3. undertaken | c. done |
| 4. selected | d. chosen |
| 5. generally | e. on the whole |
| 6. behaviour | f. manner |
| 7. changed | g. amended |
| 8. elite | h. top |
| 9. shocking | i. appalling |
| 10. potential | j. promise |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. University graduates
2. Centuries old
3. Researchers
4. Codes of conduct
5. Wearing brown shoes
6. Their behaviour
7. His/her career
8. Elite universities
9. Working-class kids
10. Skills and potential

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)