

Colloquial English Talking about... interviews

BBC

1 LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

Match the formal words in sentences 1–10 with the informal words in the box.

answer begin buy check end fill out fellow say see show

- 1 My colleague was dismissed because she didn't **adhere to** the terms of her contract. follow
- 2 Please **state** your preference for a telephone or face-to-face interview. _____
- 3 The next training course will **commence** on June 1st. _____
- 4 The receptionist asked me to **complete** an application form. _____
- 5 These figures **demonstrate** the problems facing the company. _____
- 6 Customers are advised to retain their receipt when they **purchase** an item. _____
- 7 The candidate made no **response** when he was asked about his experience. _____
- 8 My contract will **terminate** at the end of the year. _____
- 9 They called the candidate's work references to **verify** his work history. _____
- 10 We **view** your prospects of promotion as very high. _____

2 READING

a Read the article. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Guy Goma was invited to the BBC because he had applied for a job. _____
- 2 Mr. Goma was hoping to be taken on as a cleaner. _____
- 3 Mr. Goma was interviewed as soon as he arrived. _____
- 4 IT expert, Guy Kewney, was at the BBC at the same time as Guy Goma. _____
- 5 Guy Kewney had been invited to appear on a news show. _____
- 6 Both men were waiting at the same reception area. _____
- 7 The producer collected the wrong man for the news show. _____
- 8 Mr. Goma became aware of the mistake while he was being prepared for the interview. _____
- 9 Mr. Goma admitted that he wasn't Mr. Kewney on live television. _____
- 10 In the end, Mr. Goma was not offered a job at the BBC. _____

b Look at the highlighted words and phrases. What do you think they mean? Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

The wrong man for the job!

Mix up at BBC leads to job applicant appearing on live TV.

All sorts of things can go wrong in a job interview, ranging from spilling a drink to your cell phone

ringing – the list is endless. Few applicants, however, turn up for their interview and end up appearing live on television. This is exactly what happened to 43-year-old Guy Goma when he went to a job interview at the BBC.

Mr. Goma, from the Republic of the Congo, had applied for the position of data support cleanser, a job that involves updating records on a database. On the day of the interview, he arrived at BBC Television Center in plenty of time and was told to wait in the main reception area until he was called.

At the same time, News 24 host Karen Bowerman was preparing to interview British technology expert Guy Kewney about the verdict of the Apple versus Apple court case. This was a high-profile case between Apple Computer and The Beatles' record label Apple Corps over the rights to use the name "Apple." Mr. Kewney was waiting for his TV appearance in another reception area. The mix-up occurred when a producer went to get the technology expert from the wrong reception area.

The producer approached Mr. Goma and asked him if he was Guy. Hearing his first name, Mr. Goma said that he was and he was taken to the News 24 studio. After having makeup put on, he was seated in front of the cameras and wired with a microphone. Although Mr. Goma thought all the preparations very unusual, he prepared to do his best for what he believed would be his job interview.

A few moments later, Ms. Bowerman introduced Mr. Goma on live television as technology expert Guy Kewney. At first, Mr. Goma became visibly shocked, but then he simply played along because he did not want to make a scene. He did his best to answer three questions about the verdict of the court case and its implications for the music industry. Meanwhile, Mr. Kewney, still in the waiting area and looking up at a TV screen, was astonished to see Mr. Goma being interviewed in his place.

As soon as the mistake was realized, the BBC recorded an interview with Mr. Kewney for later broadcast, but it was never shown. Twenty minutes after appearing live on TV, Mr. Goma attended his real job interview, which lasted for just ten minutes, but he did not get the job. A spokesperson for the BBC said that they were looking carefully at their guest procedures and that they would take every measure to ensure that the misunderstanding didn't happen again. Mr. Goma became a minor celebrity for a while, and he appeared on several TV shows.

