

Who gets the job?

In Real Life

Every time you apply for a job, many other people are applying too.

Therefore, someone else may end up with the job you want.

Perhaps another person just happens to be the best person for the job you want. But maybe the job could be yours. You have a chance to show how right you are for a job at the interview. It's up to you to take advantage of that chance.

Ms. Talbot's decision

Julia Talbot, the city playground supervisor, is looking for a playground assistant. The assistant would organize games with the children and watch out for their safety. Ms. Talbot hopes to find someone who enjoys being with children, is good at sports, and is very reliable. She interviews three candidates.

The following chart describes and compares the three interviews.

JOB APPLICANT #1: Elizabeth Yee



JOB APPLICANT #2: Paul Jackson



JOB APPLICANT #3: Larry Yablonski



Interview Chart

THE INTERVIEW: Elizabeth arrives at her interview 15 minutes late. "Sorry I'm late," she says, "but I couldn't find my wallet. I always seem to be misplacing things." She then asks how much the job pays. She says she likes sports, especially baseball. She has also done some baby-sitting. She likes baby-sitting best at night when the children are asleep, so she can watch TV.

MS. TALBOT'S NOTES: Elizabeth does not seem to want to work. Only interested in the money she'll get. Likes sports, but would she show up on time at the playground? Would she misplace any equipment—on children?

THE INTERVIEW: Paul arrives on time for his interview. He looks neat in a pair of jeans, a polo shirt, and sneakers. He is carrying a camera. When Ms. Talbot asks about his interests, he talks about photography. He says he hopes to buy a new camera with the money he will earn from the job. He also thinks he might be able to take pictures of the kids while they play.

MS. TALBOT'S NOTES: Nice kid. Too bad I'm not looking for a photographer or darkroom assistant. He dresses nicely. But his mind is on photography, not on the job.

THE INTERVIEW: Larry arrives on time for his interview. He says he loves sports. He is on the baseball and soccer teams at school. He once tried teaching his little brother to play baseball. "But the kid just didn't have what it takes. So I gave up. It's not much fun to play with nerds," he explains.

MS. TALBOT'S NOTES: Larry certainly has the skills. But what about the patience? We aren't forming a major-league team—just giving the kids some fun.

Ms. Talbot's rating chart

How do you think Ms. Talbot rated each candidate on each trait she was looking for? Circle the letter for your choice.

E=Excellent

G=Good

P=Poor

	Relates Well with Children			Interested in Sports			Reliable Worker		
Elizabeth Yee	E	G	P	E	G	P	E	G	P
Paul Jackson	E	G	P	E	G	P	E	G	P
Larry Yablonski	E	G	P	E	G	P	E	G	P

Ms. Talbot's decision

Ms. Talbot decides not to hire any of the candidates she interviewed. She will continue to look for the right person.

Suppose you have been recommended for the job. You will have an interview next week. Answer these questions to prepare for the interview.

1. What job or jobs have you had before? (Include present job.) What did you learn on these jobs that would help you relate well with children? _____
2. What are your special interests? Check the ones that relate to the job at the playground. _____
3. How do the interests you checked relate to the job at the playground? _____
4. Do you belong to any clubs or teams? Name each one. _____
5. How would your activities with your club or team relate to the job at the playground? _____
6. Are there other things about you that Ms. Talbot should know? How do these things show you would do the job well? _____
7. Why are you the best person for the job? _____