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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

- Rob:** Welcome to 6 Minute English with me Rob.
- Finn:** And me, Finn.
- Rob:** Finn, I'd like to start by asking you: How many job interviews have you had?
- Finn:** That's difficult. Maybe ten interviews in my life.
- Rob:** Ten. That's quite a few – and do you enjoy going to job interviews?
- Finn:** I absolutely adore them! No, I'm joking! Who does? Nobody does.
- Rob:** Well, for me, they are torture! I hate being **grilled** by a panel – or group – of people. I know I can do the job but I hate having to convince them! Today, we'll be discussing some odd job interviews and looking at some related vocabulary. So Finn, are you ready for your first interview question?
- Finn:** Yes Rob, I am raring to go!
- Rob:** Good to hear. Well, it's important to know what type of job you are being interviewed for. Some job titles are a bit exaggerated. So, what type of job has been named a 'Field Nourishment Consultant'? Is it:
- a) A waitress
  - b) A school dinner lady
  - c) A petrol station assistant
- Finn:** I think that it's b) a school dinner lady.
- Rob:** An interesting choice. I'll let you know if you are wrong or right later on. Let's talk more about job interviews. A traditional interview usually involves being asked a list of questions, and sometimes you have to give a short presentation.
- Finn:** Yes, questions like: "Why do you want this job?" or, "Where do you see yourself in five years' time?"
- Rob:** Yeah, that's a tricky one to answer! But some **interviewers** – the people who ask the questions – go a bit further and ask the **interviewees** – the people being interviewed – to do some inappropriate things.

**Finn:** You mean they are asked do things are not really relevant to the job. Such as Alan Bacon, a university graduate, who last year was asked to do a dance as part of his interview.

**Rob:** Well, maybe the **position** – or job – was for a dancer or a children's entertainer?

**Finn:** No – it was actually for a job as a sales assistant in an electronics shop; so, someone who works on the shop floor, giving advice to customers about what to buy. There's no dancing involved.

**Rob:** Let's hear from him now. What did he do at the interview to look positive? And how did he really feel about doing a dance?

**Alan Bacon, university graduate:**

*We all wanted the job, some of us are desperate, like myself, and the idea is just to keep smiling and go for it. On the surface I had to look positive, I was smiling, I was laughing along with it, but inside I felt degraded and humiliated especially.*

**Finn:** Oh poor Alan. He felt **degraded** – so he lost respect from other people – and he felt **humiliated** – so he felt embarrassed and ashamed.

**Rob:** So that's how he felt on the inside but he wanted the job so he **put on a brave face** – a positive attitude and a smile on his face; he even laughed.

**Finn:** Well, later on, he did complain and he got an apology.

**Rob:** But experts say there are now too many candidates chasing too few jobs so companies are trying **unorthodox** – non-traditional ways of **recruiting** people - to see who stands out.

**Finn:** Yes, well, in any job interview it's good to **leave a lasting impression** – that means to get noticed and make people remember you. I suppose doing a dance is a good way of **breaking the ice** – making people feel relaxed – but being asked to do something outside your comfort zone also seems a bit unfair to me.

**Rob:** Yes, but I guess if you want that job, you'll do anything.

**Finn:** Well, almost!

**Rob:** I've heard about people who have had to sing at an interview and also, **role playing** – pretending to be someone else and acting out a situation.

**Finn:** I find just being asked odd or random questions in an interview can make me feel uncomfortable. And a US employment website carried out a survey about this and discovered some strange questions...

**Rob:** Yes they did, such as: "How would you cure world hunger?" and: "If you were a computer programme, which one would you be?" Here's one for you Finn: "If you were a word in the English language, which word would you be?"

**Finn:** Which word would you be? Oh, come on, that's unfair. Just asking like that – that's outside my comfort zone Rob!

**Rob:** Indeed, but I'm trying to break the ice here Finn! Never mind, I'll give you the job anyway! Seriously, there's no perfect way to interview someone for a job. If you are having a job interview, my advice would be to keep calm, think before you speak and if you are asked to do something inappropriate, tell them how you feel about it!

**Finn:** And if all else fails you could use a **bribe**? What do you think? No?!

**Rob:** Not recommended. However you can bribe me to get the answer to today's question?

**Finn:** I don't think I need to. I think I've got the answer right.

**Rob:** OK, let's find out. Earlier I asked you if you knew what a 'Field Nourishment Consultant' really is.

**Finn:** I said b) a school dinner lady – but it could be a man. Is it right?

**Rob:** It has something to do with food but it's not school dinners. It's actually a waitress – or waiter. I wonder how we could describe our jobs – maybe we could be 'Educational Dissemination Executives'?

**Finn:** Oh yes, very grand. I like that!

**Rob:** We hope you've enjoyed today's 6 Minute English. Please join us again soon for another programme.

**Both:** Bye.

## Vocabulary and definitions

grilled	(here) asked lots of difficult questions
interviewers	people who interview someone for a job
interviewees	people who are being interviewed
position	job in a company
degraded	feeling you have lost respect for yourself and from other people
humiliated	feeling embarrassed and ashamed
put on a brave face	hide your feelings of being upset or disappointed
unorthodox	different from what is usual or normally expected
recruiting	the process of finding and employing someone to work for a company
leave/ make a lasting impression	behave in a way that makes people remember good things about you for a long time
breaking the ice	making someone feel relaxed
role playing	pretending to be someone else to act out a pretend situation
bribe	money or gifts you give someone to try and make them do something

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