

Brown Shoes Are a No-No for Wanna-Be Bankers

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Unwritten /,ən'ritn/ not recorded in writing.
Example: The historians with the linguists are documenting unwritten languages.
2. Opaque /ō'pāk/ not able to be seen through; not transparent.
Example: The car is tinted black and is opaque from the outside.
3. Discriminated /də'skrimə,nāt/ make an unjust or prejudicial distinction in the treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, sex, age, or disability.
Example: The existing employment policies in the country discriminate against women.
4. Elite /ə'lēt,ā'lēt/ a select group that is superior in terms of ability or qualities to the rest of a group or society.
Example: Only members of the elite are invited to the party.
5. Locked out (of an employer) to refuse to allow workers into their place of work until they agree to particular conditions
Example: The company locks its workers out until they agree with the new policy.



Graduates who want to be investment bankers in London could be disappointed if they wear brown shoes at a job interview. A report highlights how the investment banking industry follows old, **unwritten** rules about how bankers should behave. The study was undertaken by Britain's Social Mobility Commission.

It looked at how people in job interviews were selected. Researchers found that the industry followed "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 report suggested that working class people had to change their behavior to fit in with bankers from middle and upper classes. One new banker said: "I felt like my accent was a bit out of place, so I changed it."

The study said the industry **discriminated** against those who did not go to **elite** universities. It 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....It is shocking...that some...still judge candidates on whether they wear brown shoes...rather than on their skills."

DISCUSSION

1. What kind of clothes are best to wear at an interview?
2. What advice do you have for people going for a job interview?
3. What difficult questions have you had at a job interview?
4. Should people from the best universities get the best jobs?
5. Should all workers wear the same clothes?