

CHAPTER 9

Preparing for Your Interview

You will receive a notice from USCIS of the date and time for taking your fingerprints. You will do this at a USCIS Local Office. The USCIS will research your FBI record and research your fingerprints.

You will receive an interview notice from the USCIS. This is a letter that schedules an appointment or time for your citizenship interview. It is very important that you prepare for the interview.

This chapter will help you prepare for your interview. Together, we will work through five important topics.

- your N-400 application
- your appearance
- practice interviews
- what you need to bring for the interview
- arriving at the Local USCIS Office

■ *Appearance* means the way a person looks.



Your interview letter

The notice or letter from the USCIS will give you important information about your interview.

- date
- time
- location



If you can't go to an interview on that date or time, you must write to the USCIS office as soon as possible. You must explain why you can't go to your interview. You must also ask for a different interview date and time. The USCIS will send you a letter with a new date and time.

If your address changes after sending your N-400 application to USCIS, you must send them your new address. USCIS needs your current address so you receive your interview notice.

The USCIS will “administratively close” your case or file if you do not go to your interview or send them a letter before your interview date. If your case is “administratively closed,” you have one year to ask the USCIS to reopen your case. If you do not reopen your case within one year, the USCIS will deny your application.

Now you need to prepare for your interview!

Can someone be with you in the interview?

Yes. You can bring someone with you to your interview. The person who goes with you to your interview must qualify as an attorney or representative. *A Guide to Naturalization* explains these qualifications. You must send a “Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative” (Form G-28). You learned about this in Chapter 2.

There are other special cases in which you can bring an interpreter or family member to your interview.

In Chapter 1, you learned about age-based requirements for English. If you are not required to speak English, you may bring an interpreter to the interview.

If you are disabled, you may bring a family member or legal guardian to your interview—at the discretion of the USCIS officer.

- *Discretion* means an individual choice or judgment. The USCIS officer uses her discretion to decide if a family member is necessary in the interview.



Reviewing your N-400 application

You will be interviewed by a USCIS officer. This officer is called an adjudicator. The adjudicator will review all of the questions on your Form N-400. The adjudicator does this for two reasons.

1. Normally, several months pass between the time you complete the N-400 and your interview. Your life may have changed during that time. Maybe you changed jobs or moved your family to a new home. The adjudicator must find out if any of your personal information has changed since you completed the N-400.



2. Most people are honest when they answer questions on the N-400. Sometimes, an applicant does not answer questions honestly. Lying to a government officer is a crime. This crime is called fraud. If an applicant lies to a USCIS officer, they will be arrested and taken to jail. The adjudicator must determine if applicants are lying. The adjudicator has an FBI back-ground report and other information that will help to show if an applicant gives honest answers or tell lies.

To prepare for your interview, read all of the questions and answers in your N-400. Notice any answers that have changed since the time you completed your N-400.

Be prepared to answer honestly! And be prepared to hear the questions in English and to give answers in English.



- An *adjudicator* is a person who must make a decision or judge a situation.
- *Fraud* is a purposeful lie or deception to trick someone.

Plan your clothes, hair, shoes, and jewelry

Your adjudicator must listen carefully to what you say. It is important that your appearance does not attract the adjudicator's attention. Bright colors, heavy perfume, and a lot of jewelry are not good for your interview. Here is some specific information to help you prepare.

Clothes

	
	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wear clothes that you would normally wear to an office job or job interview.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Avoid wearing your work uniform. Do <u>not</u> wear clothes that you might wear to go out with friends.</p>

Shoes/Boots

Wear conservative or simple shoes or boots.

Do not wear bright colors and trendy shoes or sandals.

Jewelry

Wear simple jewelry.

Do not wear a lot of jewelry or large jewelry.

Hair

Wear your hair clean and in a comfortable style.

Do not wear your hair in your face. You do not want to fix it during the interview.

Hands

Wash your hands well. Trim your fingernails.

Do not wear your nails uneven or dirty. Do not wear bright colored fingernail polish.

Mouth

Bring a mint that you can eat before your interview.

Do not smoke or eat food that smells strongly before your interview.

Makeup

Wear conservative or soft colors.

Do not wear bright colors.

Two more ideas!

If you do not have money to buy new clothes, you can find good clothes at second-hand stores and yard sales. You want to look confident and sure of yourself.

Test your clothes, shoes, hair and everything else before the day of your interview. You want to feel comfortable. If you are not comfortable, you will be nervous and not able to think about your interview.



Practice your interview

It is important for you to practice the interview with a friend who speaks English. You need to practice hearing questions that the adjudicator will ask. And you need to practice answering the adjudicator's questions.

In the next chapter, you will learn what the adjudicator will ask. You will also learn different ways the adjudicator may ask the same question. You will be less nervous on the day of your interview if you practice with a friend before your interview.

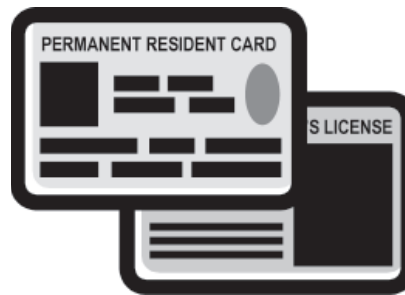
What do you need for your interview?

You need to bring a few things to your interview. Before your interview day, collect these documents.

1. Interview appointment letter or notice. The USCIS will send you a notice with the time and date of your interview. You must bring this with you for your interview. When you arrive at the USCIS Local Office, show the letter to the receptionist.



2. Identification. You must bring your Permanent Resident Card and your passport. If you have a driver's license, bring it too. Your adjudicator will ask you to show your Permanent Resident Card. Your adjudicator must be certain that he has the correct person for the interview.



He must also make certain that your name is written the same in all of the records. Your adjudicator may ask to see your passport and driver's license.

3. Reentry Permits. Some Permanent Residents must request reentry permits before leaving the U.S. You need a reentry permit to return to the U.S. if you will be out of the country for more than one year, but less than two years. Reentry permits are also issued to Permanent Residents who want to travel out of the U.S. but can't get a passport from their country of nationality. If you have requested reentry permits, bring them with you to the interview.



Arrival at the Local USCIS Office

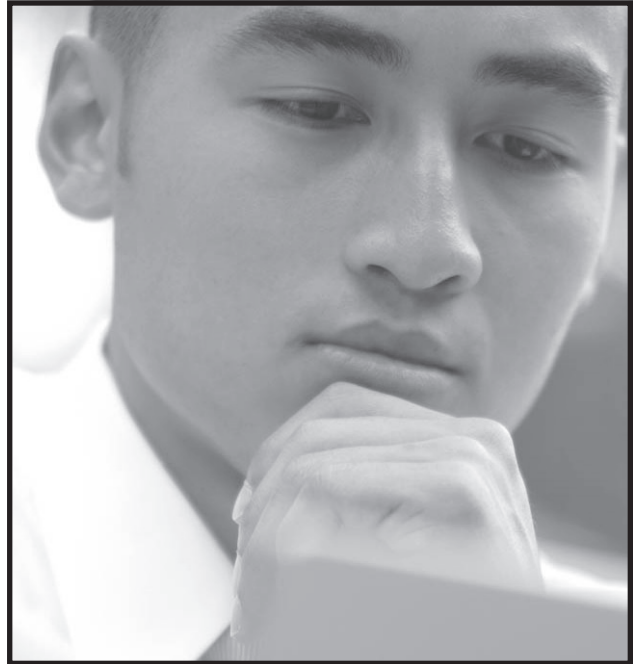
Leave your young children with a trusted babysitter or bring a friend or family member who can keep them in the lobby. You cannot bring your children into the interview with you.

Plan to arrive 30 minutes or more before your interview time. You may have to look for the office or for a parking place.

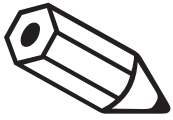
When you arrive, you will show your appointment notice to the guard. You will also show your appointment letter to a CIS officer at a desk. The officer will tell your adjudicator that you have arrived.

Take the time to go to the restroom while you wait.

Many people review their N-400 application again while they wait for their interview.



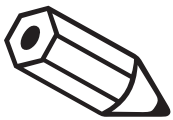
Review Activities



Find the meaning

Write in the blank space the letter of the correct meaning.

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
_____ 1. adjudicator	A. the crime of lying to someone in order to get something
_____ 2. appearance	B. a simple version that does not attract a lot of attention
_____ 3. fraud	C. a person who makes a decision or judges a situation
_____ 4. conservative	D. not at ease or comfortable in an environment
_____ 5. comfortable	E. the way a person looks
_____ 6. confident	F. at ease in the environment
_____ 7. nervous	G. believing that you are capable



Yes or no?

Circle the correct answer.

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Yes | No | 1. You can take your children into your interview. |
| Yes | No | 2. Bright clothes show the adjudicator that you are able to pass the interview. |
| Yes | No | 3. You should practice your interview with someone who speaks English. |
| Yes | No | 4. You only need your interview appointment notice or letter when you arrive for your interview. |
| Yes | No | 5. You will be interviewed, then USCIS will take your fingerprints. |
| Yes | No | 6. The first person you will see at a USCIS Local Office is a guard. |
| Yes | No | 7. The adjudicator will ask if you have moved your family. |
| Yes | No | 8. There is no need to review the N-400 before your interview. |
| Yes | No | 9. Wear clothes that make you look comfortable—like jeans and a t-shirt. |
| Yes | No | 10. Wear your hair clean and in a comfortable style. |



Your appearance for your interview

Answer these questions.

1. What clothes will you wear for your interview?

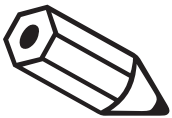
2. What shoes will you wear?

3. What jewelry will you wear?

4. How will you wear your hair?

5. If you wear nail polish, what color will you wear?

6. If you wear makeup, what colors will you wear?



Preparing for your interview

Answer these questions.

During interviews, why do adjudicators ask you the questions on the N-400? There are two reasons.

What three things must you be prepared to do during your interview?



Preparing for your interview

Choose the correct answer. Questions may have more than one correct answer.

1. You should practice your interview with a person who speaks English because _____.
 - a. You will be less nervous if you practice.
 - b. You must answer all of the questions quickly.
 - c. You need to practice hearing the questions.
 - d. You need to practice answering the questions.

2. What things do you need to gather when you prepare for your interview?
 - a. drivers license, passport, Permanent Resident Card, interview notice, and mint
 - b. birth certificate, passport, Permanent Resident Card, interview notice, and mint
 - c. birth certificate and interview notice
 - d. Permanent Resident Card, interview notice, and mint

3. Where will your children be during your interview?
 - a. at home with a babysitter
 - b. with you in the interview
 - c. at school, work, or home
 - d. in the lobby with a friend or family member

4. If your interview is at 10:00 in the morning, at what time would you plan to arrive at the Local USCIS Office?
 - a. 9:00
 - b. 9:30
 - c. 10:00
 - d. 10:30

5. Who will you talk to when you arrive at the Local USCIS Office?
 - a. the guard
 - b. the Officer in Charge of the Local Office
 - c. your adjudicator
 - d. a CIS officer

6. What will you do while you wait for your adjudicator to call you for your interview?
 - a. call your friends to tell them where you are
 - b. maybe go to the restroom
 - c. review your N-400
 - d. read the newspaper, a magazine, or a book



Listening practice

You must understand, speak, read, and write English to pass the citizenship interview and exam. In each chapter of this book, we will practice these skills.

1. Listen to track number 17 of the CD that comes with your book.
2. Listen to the speaker two times.
3. Choose the sentence or question that you hear.
 1. _____ a. The adjudicator will call your name.
_____ b. The receptionist will call your name.
_____ c. The adjudicator will ask to see your ID.
 2. _____ a. What will you wear for your interview?
_____ b. Dress like you are going on a job interview.
_____ c. Wear nice clothes for your interview.
 3. _____ a. The adjudicator will review questions in your Form N-400 application.
_____ b. The adjudicator will ask you questions from the Form N-400 application.
_____ c. The adjudicator will ask you history and civics questions.
 4. _____ a. Practice your interview with a good friend.
_____ b. Practice your interview with an English-speaker.
_____ c. Practice your interview three or four times.
 5. _____ a. Give honest answers to the USCIS officer.
_____ b. Do not lie to the USCIS officer.
_____ c. Tell the USCIS officer the truth.
 6. _____ a. Bring your appointment letter to your interview.
_____ b. Bring your Permanent Resident Card to your interview.
_____ c. Bring your Reentry Permits to your interview.
 7. _____ a. An interpreter can go to your interview if you are not required to speak English.
_____ b. Your adjudicator may allow a family member to go to your interview if you are disabled.
_____ c. You must send a Form G-28 if you want a representative with you at your interview.



Writing practice

1. Listen to track number 18 of the CD that comes with your book.
2. Listen to the sentence two times.
3. Write the sentence.
4. Listen to the sentence one more time.
5. Read the sentence you wrote.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____
