

HOW I GOT MY DREAM JOB



FOR SOME PEOPLE, family connections can help them get their dream job, like Stella McCartney or Ivanka Trump. Others, like Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg, create their own dream. But some people just get lucky, and I guess I'm one of those. My name is Lenny, I'm 28, and this is how I got my dream job with Google.

I was working in an insurance company in Brussels when I read about a virtual job fair – a website where candidates can 'meet' recruiters online. I was bored with my job, so I logged in and looked around: jobs with banks, insurance companies, and then ... Google! Working for an Internet company was my dream, so I opened a chat window and talked to someone called Julie from Human Resources. The opportunity that really got my attention was in New York. It was exactly what I was looking for!

I think I made a good impression because Julie asked for my CV. She told me to wait for someone from New York called Annie to contact me. Well, I didn't want to wait for a call. I did some research and found Annie's full name and an article she had written. I emailed her, commented on her article and said I was looking forward to talking to her. Some people say I took a risk, but I think it's important to get the employer's attention.

I was delighted when Annie replied. She sent me more details about the job and some questions to answer. I took a few days to think, then wrote a very careful reply. I wanted to impress Annie and show that I was passionate about the job. She seemed satisfied. A week later, we had

two phone interviews. They went well. Annie asked me to attend an interview in Dublin, so I was confident that my name was on the short list.

The final interviews were at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. I had six interviews, some with one interviewer and others with four or five people. I also played volleyball and swam in the pool. Google believe in a creative approach to work, play and life! That evening I was exhausted but happy: I was 99% sure that the job was mine.

I didn't wait long for an answer. As soon as I got back to Brussels, they offered me the job. It was difficult to leave my family and friends, but the idea of living in New York was incredibly exciting. I didn't hesitate – after all, it was my dream job!

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and I guess I'm one of those.**

5 Read the last three paragraphs again and choose the correct answers. Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

- 1 Lenny took his time to answer Annie's questions because a) they were very difficult
b) he wanted to make a good impression c) he was passionate about his work.
- 2 Lenny was sure he was on the short list when he had a) an interview by phone
b) an interview in Brussels c) an interview in Dublin.
- 3 At Google headquarters, Lenny a) played volleyball b) had interviews
c) met four or five people.
- 4 Lenny received the job offer a) in California b) in New York c) in Brussels.

Discussion

7 In small groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 How difficult is it to get a good job in your country at the moment?
- 2 What are your plans for getting a job?
- 3 Are you prepared to work abroad?
- 4 What is your dream job and how will you get it?