What employers notice: A beard. "You don't meet a lot of CFOs with beards," says HR executive Brendan Courtney.

*How to fix it:* Buzz it short a week out. Moisturize before shaving, and use a sharp razor. Apply aftershave balm; moisturize again.

What employers notice: A unibrow. They also notice nose and ear hair, Courtney says. "Unkempt, poorly groomed candidates will never gain the edge on higher-level jobs."

*How to fix it:* Use tweezers on your brows and trimmers for wayward nose and ear hair.

What employers notice: "If you're interviewing for a white-collar job, hands that look like you work in a garage or on a farm tend to stand out," Courtney says.

*How to fix it:* It's finally time—have a professional manicure and buff.

What they notice: Nonconformity. Corporate positions require a clean-cut look. Kilgore suggests showing uniqueness "in what you can bring professionally, not in your haircut."

*How to fix it:* Schedule a haircut (or at least a sideburn and neck trim) with your regular barber or stylist a few days before the interview. This is not the time to try something new; it's the time to clean up any distracting flyaways.

Be on your best behavior upon entering the building. "Some places go out of their way to choreograph the waiting room," admits Kilgore, who has used the receptionist and a lobby camera to observe job seekers. You'd be surprised how rudeness, nervous tics, and preening can ruin a candidate's chances.

Restaurant etiquette provides strong clues about a person's personal habits and refinement. Kilgore suggests taking cues from those around you and choosing an entree at a similar level. If the waiter calls on you first, order a simple fish or chicken dish.

Adapted from *Men's Health*. 