

GET THE JOB

Taking a Job You Don't Want

Questions to Ask Before Saying Yes to a Maybe

Sometimes the job market doesn't move as quickly as you need it to. Bills don't wait, and long gaps in employment can be stressful. In those moments, you might find yourself weighing an offer that's far from ideal. The role isn't quite right — but it's a paycheck. So what should you do?

TAKE A CLEAR LOOK AT YOUR SITUATION

Before saying yes, consider the basics. Do you need the income immediately? Will this job provide benefits or stability you truly can't go without right now? If so, taking it for the short term may be the right move.

But if you have some flexibility — financially or otherwise — it's worth slowing down to ask whether the role will help or hinder your long-term goals. Will it take time and energy away from your job search? Could it hurt your résumé down the road?

Only you know what kind of compromise makes sense in your current season of life.

IS THERE ANY UPSIDE?

Not all “wrong” jobs are created equal. Sometimes a role you weren't excited



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about on paper can offer valuable experience, a foot in the door or a new network of contacts.

If the job gives you a chance to learn something new, build skills or transition into a new industry, it may be worth considering. Just be

sure you're not taking it based solely on hope — it should offer something concrete that supports your growth.

HAVE A PLAN FOR WHAT'S NEXT

If you do accept a role

you're unsure about, go in with intention. Set a timeline to reassess — three months, six months — and give yourself permission to keep looking if it still isn't right.

Make time outside of work to keep your résumé updated, pursue training or connect

with others in your field. You don't have to stay stuck just because you said yes.

Taking a less-than-ideal job isn't a failure — it's a strategy. What matters is how you use it to support your next step, not just your next paycheck.