PAPERSKATER TIP SHEET #6

THE GAP QUESTION. ANSWERED.

What to say when they ask about gaps in your work history.

THE MISTAKE

Apologizing and over-explaining. **The more you explain, the bigger the gap sounds** — and the question was never really about the gap. Don’t apologize. Say what you were doing. Then pivot forward.

FIX IT TONIGHT

✓ **Say what you were doing**

“I was out of the workforce for a stretch, handling family matters.” Short. Honest. Forward-looking.

✓ **Pivot — then stop talking**

“I’m back. I’m available immediately. And I’m looking for steady, long-term work.” Then zip it. Seriously.

✓ **Practice it out loud**

Say your twenty seconds to the mirror tonight, until it sounds boring. Boring means believable. If they press for details, just repeat the last line.

Here’s what they’re really asking: will you show up now? That’s the whole question. Answer that one.

Want more 60-second résumé tips? *Optional — no spam, unsubscribe anytime.*

Send me tips