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.**

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