

MY FRIEND IS MAD AT ME

My friend is mad at me for saying things about her. I did say stuff when I was with other friends, but somehow she thinks it was just me and is ignoring me. I'm getting blamed for something that was part of a group conversation! How do I fix this?

C.T., 15, Hawaii

Find a way to tell your friend how sorry you are, even if you have to write a note and stick it in her locker. Even though you weren't alone, you have to take responsibility for what you said. Don't expect your other friends to confess to their part

in the conversation if they've already skated, but do enlist their help to get her to accept your apology. The next time you feel like joining the gossip session about someone you care for, remember this and stop yourself.

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TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

CANDIDATE #1:

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about yourself.

CANDIDATE: (lounging across the chair) Well, I'm probably the top athlete in my school. I'm fast as anything, and I can bench press 250 pounds.

INTERVIEWER: So, loading and unloading boxes...

CANDIDATE: ...would be a piece of cake! And I just got a new 10-speed bike that I could use to make deliveries FAST. I really don't think my twin brother would mind, even though the bike belongs to both of us.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever done this kind of work before?

CANDIDATE: Nah, but it's no big deal. I can handle it.

STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES**CANDIDATE #2:**

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about yourself.

CANDIDATE: Well, I just moved here about a month ago. I'm a pretty good student. My classes don't seem too tough, so I think I can handle an after-school job.

INTERVIEWER: So, the hours won't interfere with your schedule or homework?

CANDIDATE: No. They work out fine for this semester.

INTERVIEWER: You know that the job involves lifting some heavy boxes...

CANDIDATE: ...I know. I'm stronger than I look! When we moved here, I had to lift some really heavy boxes. I did okay with them.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever done anything else that's similar to this kind of work?

CANDIDATE: No, but I'm really well organized. And I've been to this store a lot, so I know where things are. I know the neighborhood, too. So I won't get lost making deliveries. I think I can do the job.