

# Interviews

There are two ways an interview can be written up. One is as a regular **news story** (either straight or narrative). The other is in a **"Question and Answer" ("Q & A")** format.

## News story style:

1. Choose a Title (HEADLINE)
  - A good title should have something about the topic of the interview. It may also have a subtitle that includes the name of the person(s) being interviewed (for magazine)
  - Summary of the topic (for newspaper)
2. Interviewer/author's name (BYLINE)
  - Where (geographic locale) info is from (goes in ( ) )
3. 1st Sentence/Paragraph tells the topic under discussion and who is being interviewed.
  - Write in paragraphs (story style)
  - Use dialogue and identify the speaker(s) (exact quotations and who said them)
  - Be to describe the people interviewed in a way that shows why he/she is a good source of information
  - Don't use "I" unless it's in dialogue from a witness
  - Titles should summarize the entire story generally; the article should add details, "filling out" the story
  - Format should look similar to what follows:

"TITLE"

by Your Name, Your Employer

(CITY) – The article begins here. You only put in a city, or byline, if the story happened in one specific location/city; otherwise, the first paragraph is indented. If the story does happen in one place, there is no indentation; everything through the first paragraph begins at the margin.

When you start the second paragraph, you should indent it. Every paragraph that follows should also be indented.

NEWPORT

## Local pastor pens romance novels packed with relationship advice

Newport pastor wrote three romance novels in past year

By Patricia Drey Busse  
Managing Editor

After performing weddings and counseling couples for 35 years, Pastor Gary Ritner had built up a trove of relationship advice.

The Newport United Methodist pastor decided to use the medium of a romance novel to share his wisdom with couples and singles who might need it.

"I just kept coming to the conclusion that people needed some help in recognizing a good relationship, finding the



Gary Ritner

right person. They needed help in figuring out how to keep their relationship strong," said Ritner, a Cottage Grove resident.

He first thought of writing nonfiction, but then decided he could use fiction to make some ethical points and give some of the instruction he would give in marriage counseling.

"Writing novels got to be really fun," said the former high school and college journalist.

So fun, he's written three

Christian romance novels in the last year.

His first two stories — "Courage in the Clutch" and "Pickup Games" — offer couples advice on finding the right person, making the most of the opportunity and keeping love strong.

"Becoming indifferent to the relationship is what gets a lot of people in trouble," Ritner said. "I try to give a lot of examples and role models and ideal images of what it means to be caring and compassionate in a relationship, and how to be good parents, too."

His third book is based on a trend he noticed in the couples he's married in the past few years — a majority of them met online.

"It just kind of blew me away that it seemed like every person I asked said 'Oh, we met on the Internet,'" Ritner said.

The book, "Fantasy Love Online," gives readers tips on how to stay safe when meeting people on the Internet.

"The most important one is never meeting someone at their home or away from a public place," Ritner said. "After all of the safety precautions are taken you may choose to meet somewhere else, but initially someone has to be very careful."

Writing isn't the only skill that Ritner's used in the name of love. The longtime Web designer created a site that connects couples seeking a wedding officiant with cler-

gy nationwide.

He started the site three years ago, and he receives referral fees for successful matches made through it.

Ritner estimates he's married 1,000 couples over 35 years, officiating weddings both inside and outside his congregation. When it comes to weddings, Ritner said he's

hooked by the emotion, joy and celebration.

"I love those moments when the bride or groom cries, when there's a lot of emotion, when it's clear they're really happy and this means a lot to them," he said. "That makes it all worth it."

To see Ritner's wedding minister referral site go to <http://whatagreatchurch.org/weddingministers>.

For information on Ritner's books, go to [www.garyritner.org](http://www.garyritner.org).

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*"Becoming indifferent to the relationship is what gets a lot of people in trouble."*

— Gary Ritner  
Newport United Methodist Church pastor

# Interviews

## Q & A style:

1. The title usually includes the name of the subject being interviewed, often with a clever twist or an allusion to the main topic(s) the interview will cover.
2. The author usually gets a byline directly beneath the title.
3. The actual interview itself should start with a short introduction that explains to the reader who is being interviewed, when and where the interview is taking place (to provide context), and what the main topic(s) of the interview will be.
4. The rest of the interview looks very much like a transcript.
5. The interview usually concludes with a question designed to provide an answer that gives closure to the overall interview.

**UpClose**

## Mystery Man

Mark Harmon, star of the hit detective show *NCIS*, solves 13 of life's riddles BY CRISTY LYTAL

**F**ormer UCLA quarterback and shoe salesman Mark Harmon, 58, has had a little bit of mystery in his life. For instance, how he went from selling shoes to playing a Navy sleuth on TV's top cop drama (see No. 5). To further keep us guessing, Harmon, off camera, bears little resemblance to Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs, the tough and savvy character currently making Harmon's name—and face—an entertainment fixture. One of *People's* Sexiest Men Alive, Harmon also has one of those rare stable Hollywood marriages, with actress Pam Dawber; they have two boys. "We all take the path we take, and then [life] is what you make of," he says. Here, this philosophical man puts his mind to other puzzles.

**1 Why are we here?** It's the battle, pushing through what everybody's saying you can't do. I wanted to play football ever since I was a kid. If I wanted to spend time with my dad growing up, I was usually at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Sundays, because he was a sports broadcaster. I would look at that tunnel the players ran out of and think, Wow—wouldn't it be something to run out of there as a player? I didn't care much about all the hoopla around it. It's a remarkable enough feat to find yourself in a position where everything is against winning the game. That's where the honor is.

**2 Why did sneakers with Velcro go out of style?** Speaking as a man formerly in the shoe business—I used to sell everything from tennis shoes to hockey skates—I think people realized that it's not a good idea if the shoe outlives the stickiness of the Velcro.

**3 How do you make it through 14-hour days on the set of *NCIS*?** This job is a gift. Throwing a pick around in a coal mine—that's hard work. You have to keep that in perspective. But when I need to recharge and have a little time off, I go somewhere where there's no Internet or cell phone.

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**4 What's your road not taken?** Carpentry was a way to spend time with my dad on the weekends. Then I built my own house. If you do it right, it's real. You touch it. It stays there. It outlives you. You knock on it. You can feel it in your knuckles knocking back. To me, it's much more real than this acting game.

**5 Why does hard work pay off?** When I was starting out as an actor, if you needed someone to say "Ma'am, can I see your license?" that was me. If you needed a "You got a Jeep for sale?" and a knock on the door, that was me. You needed someone to take his shirt off and kiss the girl, that was me. I was very happy doing


those roles for however long I did them. Then you get a break [Harmon got his big break in 1983 with a leading part on the television show *St. Elsewhere*], and hopefully you can capitalize on it. This is a business that runs hot and cold. I'm more interested in the longevity of my career than in any one job. Doing the work—that's the part I care about. And that makes me no different from a carpenter.

**6 What's the secret to happiness?** Keeping a healthy perspective. It's important to like getting up in the morning and going to work. Maybe I say that because it hasn't always been like that for me. Now I appreciate it.

**7 You play Superman in the new animated movie *Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths*. Why does Superman wear tights? I wouldn't have put Superman in a pair of Speedos, but it wasn't my choice! It is cold up there flying around.**

**8 What do women want?** I'm still trying to figure that out. The success of my marriage has more to do with picking the right woman than it does with figuring out that question.

**9 Why is your marriage successful? I got lucky. I did a lot of stupid stuff in my 20s. I was fortunate to**



Crimebusters: Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs (Harmon, right) and Ziva David (Cote de Pablo) track an assassin.

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Title & Name of Interviewee	
Byline (Author)	
Short introduction, When & where the interview takes place, Main topics	
Interview questions	
Conclusion that gives closure	

# Interviews

## Marks are awarded as follows:

1. Structure – Title, name of interviewee, short introduction, interview questions, conclusion – **5 marks**
2. Content and flow – questions and answers relevant to the topic, interesting information covered, maintain flow of questions and answers – **5 marks**
3. Language and style – suitable for the purpose and for the audience – **5 marks**

## Interviews can be role-played.

Assess yourself for preparation:

Role play assessment	Yes	No
I speak more formally during the role-play, and I don't use slang		
I speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear		
I change the volume (loudness of my voice), the tone (expression), and the tempo (speed)		
I, as the interviewer, ask useful questions and find out interesting information		
I use adverbs (for example, often, rarely, partially, totally, almost, really		

## Marks are awarded as follows:

1. Content and flow – questions and answers relevant to the topic, interesting information covered, maintain flow of questions and answers – **5 marks**
2. Language and style – suitable for the purpose and for the audience – **5 marks**
3. Delivery – volume, pace, intonation and expression (voice and facial), confidence, eye contact and rapport with audience/interviewer/interviewee – **5 marks**