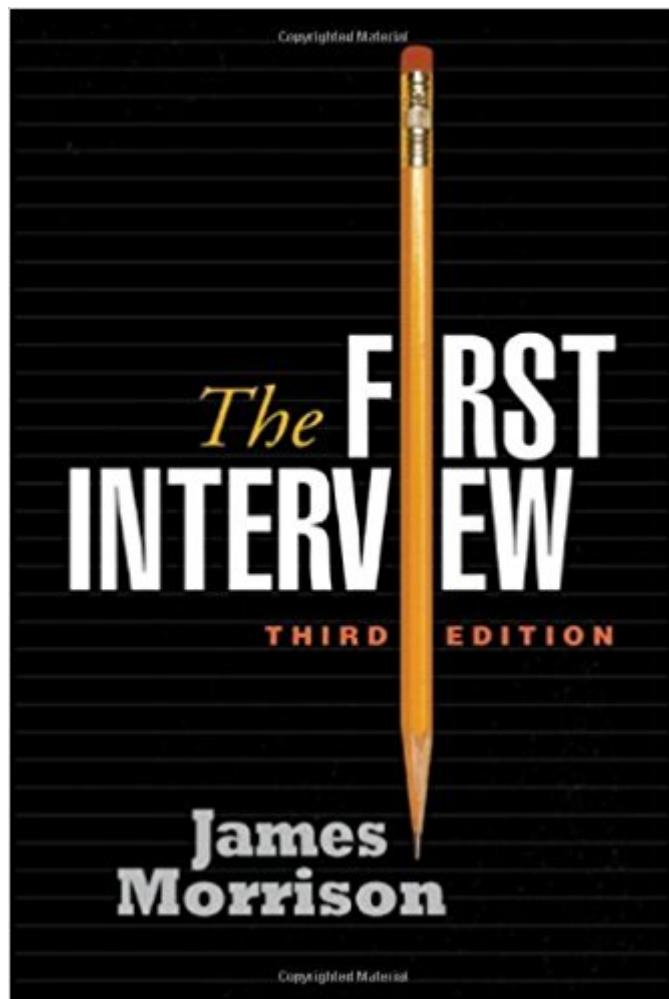


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# The First Interview, Third Edition



## Synopsis

This indispensable clinical guidebook describes and illustrates how to conduct a successful diagnostic mental health interview. James Morrison details effective methods for posing clinical questions; what the clinician should ask to obtain complete, accurate information; and how to select the best strategy to meet any clinical situation. Throughout, the author interweaves research on what works in mental health interviewing along with fresh insights on how to build rapport and enhance patient motivation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Even as an experienced interviewer, I was well rewarded by reading this comprehensive guide to all aspects of interviewing. Morrison's extensive experience, elegant wordings for use in difficult situations, and sage clinical and diagnostic advice truly shine. No other book on interviewing is as rich and rewarding for students. It provides specific insights for doing the best possible interviews and describing and communicating the findings. This is an essential book for all mental health clinicians."--Edward L. Zuckerman, PhD, author of Clinician's Thesaurus "This well-written book is an excellent tutorial for professionals who need to take patients' psychiatric and medical histories. It is laced with helpful pointers, clinical vignettes, and 'dos and don'ts' that guide the reader through the interview process. While it is especially relevant for students, even interviewers as experienced as myself can find helpful tips to make the interview process more efficient. This book adds to Morrison's strong body of work intended to help clinicians perform their jobs better, and is certainly a

'must read' for those just beginning the training process."--David L. Dunner, MD, FACPpsych, Director, Center for Anxiety and Depression, Mercer Island, Washington, and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington "This book was written to help transform those just starting out in mental health services into discerning and welcoming observers who can interact with patients to obtain the best information, make sound decisions, and create strong relationships. Psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners, and all who talk to patients will profit from learning and applying the strategies so clearly outlined here."--Rodrigo Muñoz, MD, Department of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego "An absolute 'must read' for any clinician at any level of experience. This clearly written, highly practical, step-by-step guide to conducting the first interview is filled with wisdom. Morrison is sensitive to and respectful of the patient while recognizing the clinician's need to get as much information as possible. The Appendices are invaluable. I cannot think of another book that comes close to this masterpiece. Thank you, Dr. Morrison, for providing this essential guide."--Robert L. Leahy, PhD, Director, American Institute for Cognitive Therapy; Department of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College

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James Morrison, MD, graduated from Reed College and earned his MD at Washington University in St. Louis, where he trained in psychiatry. He is currently Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. Dr. Morrison's other books for professionals include *Diagnosis Made Easier*, *DSM-IV Made Easy*, *When Psychological Problems Mask Medical Disorders*, and *Interviewing Children and Adolescents*. In 2002 he wrote a comprehensive guide for patients and their relatives, *Straight Talk about Your Mental Health*.

The First Interview : Revised for DSM-IV, by J. Morrison is a detailed and forthright tool for obtaining critical information from the client during the first session, while maintaining the clinician's ability to develop trust and rapport with the client. The use of vignettes offers the reader opportunity to visualize how the book's message might be utilized with clients. I have found this book to be of particular benefit to new interns, and to those who are working in government funded facilities, as it provides instruction for gaining the information required for developing an accurate diagnosis and creating an assessment plan such as are required for Medical clients. It is also a good review for clinicians regarding such issues as formulating effective questions and dealing with resistance. I suggest reading the book before one begins seeing clients face-to-face, as it will help to prevent the beginning clinician from developing poor clinical skills.

The day I finished this book, I almost wept with joy. The author is incredibly patronizing and judgmental in tone, and there is essentially zero meaningful consideration of key factors that influence client presentation (e.g., race/gender/SES/sexual orientation...). I tried to cut him some slack, since he was trained and works in a medical setting, but frankly that does not excuse the way this book was written because individuals deserve to be treated with respect, consideration, and understanding regardless of the setting to which they present, or how challenging their symptoms are. He makes what is a very complex process seem straightforward, and though it is certainly true that a solid initial interview can be conducted within an hour with skill and practice, it is mistaken to assume that the knowledge gleaned at the end of the hour is as all-encompassing as it is presented to be in the text. The focus on pragmatics means less considered and careful attention to multiple dynamics that could be affecting the intake/interview process in meaningful ways, and this deserves substantive attention. I personally wish I hadn't read this book (it was required in my graduate program), and certainly wouldn't give it to trainees as an instructive text.

This book " The first interview " is a must have for any psychology major. This easy to follow style explains with great clarity the skills and techniques necessary to establish a successful client interview for the initial intake interview to the termination of the client and counselor relationship. This book covers every detail with fluid concepts needed to interview clients and is a perfect interview manual for students pursuing counseling and therapy as their primary academic goal. I truly love, love , this book and I will use it to develop the essential skills required to master the art of the interview process.

Every clinician should read this book

If you are relatively new to the field, Morrison does an amazing job walking the reader through their "first interview." He identifies and provides detailed information about the different phases of the intake process and even shares examples throughout the book.

James Morrison has a long history of writing for clinicians as if we are all laymen. I for one appreciate this because I am busy as hell helping people. He breaks down the questions to ask into categories of specifics like substance, anxiety, mood, psychotic disorders etc. with simple conversational examples and appendixes that will give mental health clinicians all they need to ask

in the first sessions in the room to better understand details in the psyche(s) of the people who trust you with caring for them. Worth twice the price.

This text breaks down each component of the psychiatric interview and gives tips on how to get the most information out of your patient. It also gives a self evaluation tool that forces you to see areas that you may improve on in your initial psychiatric evaluation. I have worked in mental health for over 10 years and this book has been useful in advancing my assessment skills. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to sharpen their initial evaluation skills.

Book was in as stated condition. Shipping was a bit slow. Don't order this at the last minute.

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