

# COACHING

## **What if the timer goes off in the middle of your answer?\***

*What?* I was just getting to the good part! I didn't know there had to be a time limit... Should the time limit scare you? Absolutely not! This should motivate you even more to create a lasting impression quickly.

If the timer goes off in the middle of your answer, don't acknowledge it out loud but take notice, and finish up the sentence you're currently on. That doesn't mean to finish out your point, just finish the sentence, thank them and move along. The last thing you want is to be "late" to the next judge and waste your fellow contestants' time.

Keep these tips in mind while you're preparing for interview to help you avoid the timer going off during your interview:

### *Practice with a timer*

Most pageants will let contestants know in advance how much time they get with the judges during interview. Use this to your advantage! Set the timer on an egg timer or your phone and time yourself as another family member or friend asks you the questions.

The more comfortable you are with the timer going off, the less you'll look freaked out if it actually happens during the real thing!

If you can't find out the time beforehand, a good standard to stick to is 30 seconds. If you can contain your answer to any question to just 30 seconds, you'll prevent yourself from rambling and allow the judges to ask more than one question. Hint: this means you can really showcase your accomplishments, personality and why you're right for the crown.

\*Taken from an article in Pageant Daily