



Common Interview Questions

Employers ask open-ended questions to see how you will respond and how well you think on your feet. Many a candidate has dug themselves into a hole by talking too much or bearing their soul. Preparing answers prior to the interview is a key strategy for a successful interview.

1. Tell me about yourself.

Employers are not looking for your life story. Prepare a quick “elevator speech” that you can use. You can include things such as:

- Where you were raised
- Where you went to college
- A prominent move or career change
- Perhaps a hobby

2. Why are you looking? (Why did you leave your last job?)

Stay positive. Do not speak poorly of your current employer. If you were fired, have a good explanation. If you were downsized, be brief and stay upbeat. Don't mention money as the reason you are looking; you could be perceived as a mercenary.

3. What are your strengths?

Make it a professional related strength. This is an opportunity to tell them why you are a great employee. Have a few examples written down in your portfolio.

4. What are your weaknesses? (Also asked as “What is an area for growth?”)

The appropriate response is a minor work related flaw and what you are doing to overcome the flaw. Don't dwell on the weakness.

5. Tell me about a suggestion you have made that your company implemented.

Prepare a story that describes how you came up with the suggestion, how your company implemented the suggestion and how it positively affected the company.

6. Why are you interested in working here?

You've done your research on the company so you should know why you are interested in working for the company. If you are just looking for a better or new opportunity or more money, keep searching for other reasons that you are interested in working for the company.

7. Why should we hire you?



The company wants you to convince them that you're the right candidate for the position. Give them a compelling statement of the value you bring to the company.

8. Where would you like to be in 5 years?

The company is looking for someone who will be there for more than a year or two.

9. Describe a time when you have had a difficult situation at work and how you dealt with the issue.

This will give them insight into how you handle conflict.

10. Do you have any questions for us?

They want to see if you are interested enough in the position to research the company before your interview.