

Common Job Interview Questions

Smile and show with enthusiasm how you are a good fit for the job!

- **Tell me about yourself.** – Make a 2-3 minute enthusiastic commercial of your education, professional achievements and goals. Describe your qualifications for the job.
- **Why do you want to work here? What about our company interests you?** – Demonstrate your interest in the company. Share what you learned about the job, the company and the industry through your own research. Answer this with enthusiasm!!
- **Why did you leave your last job or what is your motivation for looking at new opportunities?** The interviewer may want to know if you had any problems on your last/current job. If you did not, simply give a reason, such as: relocated away from job; no possibility of advancement; wanted a job better suited to your skills. Never speak poorly about previous employers.
- **What are your best skills?** If you have sufficiently researched the organization, you should be able to imagine what skills the company values. List them, and then give examples where you have demonstrated these skills.
- **What is your major weakness?** Be positive; turn a weakness into strength. For example, you might say: “I often worry too much over my work. Sometimes I work late to make sure the job is done well.” Tell what steps you have taken to strengthen your weakness. Give example.
- **Do you prefer to work by yourself or with others?** Ideal answer is one of flexibility. However, be honest. Give examples describing how you have worked in both situations.
- **What are your career goals?** - The interviewer wants to know if your plans and the company’s goals are compatible. Relate how you are ambitious enough to plan ahead. Talk about your desire to learn more and improve your performance and be specific as possible about how you will meet the goals you have set for yourself.
- **What are your hobbies?** – The interviewer may be looking for evidence of your job skills outside of your professional experience. For example, hobbies such as chess or bridge demonstrate analytical skills. Reading, music and painting are creative hobbies. Also, the interviewer might simply be curious as to whether you have a life outside work. Employees who have creative or athletic outlets for their stress are often healthier, happier and more productive.
- **What salary are you expecting?** – You probably don’t want to answer this one directly. Instead deflect the question back to the interviewer by saying something like: “I don’t know. What are you planning on paying the candidate?” Let the employer make the first offer.
- **What have I forgotten to ask?** Use this as a chance to summarize your good characteristics and attributes and how they may be used to benefit the organization. Convince the interviewer that you understand the job requirements and that you can succeed.

