



## PRACTICE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Review these typical interview questions and think about how you would answer them. Read the questions listed; you will also find some strategy suggestions with it.

### 1. Tell me about yourself:

This is the most common interview question asked by employers. Be prepared with a simple answer that does not sound rehearsed. Highlight work related items that relate to the position you are interviewing for unless the interviewer specifically asks for other details. Start with prior experiences and work up to the present.

### 2. Why did you leave your last job?

Focus on the positive!!! No matter what the circumstances were that lead to you leaving your last job, never discuss major problems with prior supervisors or management. Do not speak ill of prior co-workers. Talk about leaving for positive reasons that look forward, such as an opportunity or a chance to pursue other dreams.

### 3. What experience do you have in this field?

Speak about specifics that relate to the position you are applying for. If you do not have specific experience, get as close as you can.

### 4. Do you consider yourself successful?

You should always answer yes and briefly explain why. A good explanation is that you have set goals, and you have met some and are on track to achieve the others.

### 5. What do you expect to be paid?

A loaded question. A nasty little game that you will probably lose if you answer first. So, do not answer it. Instead, say something like, That's a tough question. Can you tell me the range for this position? In most cases, the interviewer, taken off guard, will tell you. If not, say that it can depend on the details of the job. Then give a wide range.

### 6. Are you a team player?

You are, of course, a team player. Be sure to have examples ready. Focus your examples on the point of working for the team, rather than just for yourself. Keep a team attitude. Do not brag, just say it in a matter-of-fact tone. This is a key point.

### 7. How long do you expect to work for us if hired?

It is best to leave the door open on this question. Do not be specific. Something like this should work: "I'd like it to be a long time." Or, "As long as we both feel I'm doing a good job."



8. Have you ever been asked to leave a job?

If the answer is yes, be honest, brief and avoid saying negative things about the people or organization involved.

9. What irritates you about co-workers?

This is a trap question. Think real hard but fail to come up with anything that irritates you. A short statement that you seem to get along with folks is great.

10. What is your greatest strength?

Numerous answers are good, just stay positive. A few good examples:

Your ability to prioritize, your problem-solving skills, your ability to work under pressure, your ability to focus on projects, your leadership skills, your positive attitude, etc.

11. Tell me about your dream job.

Stay away from a specific job. You cannot win. If you say the job you are contending for is it, you strain credibility. If you say another job is it, you plant the suspicion that you will be dissatisfied with this position if hired. The best is to stay generic and say something like: A job where I love the work, like the people, can contribute and can't wait to get to work.

12. Why do you think you would do well at this job?

Give several reasons and include skills, experience and interest.

13. Do you have any questions for me?

Always have some questions prepared. Some suggestions are, "How soon will I be able to be productive?" and "What type of projects will I be able to work on when I am hired?"

OTHER SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

How would you describe yourself?

What motivates you to do a good job?

Give me an example of an important goal that you set in the past and tell me about your success in reaching it.

What do you consider to be your greatest weaknesses?

What is the last book you read?