

Interviewing Tips

Common Interview Questions

Employers may ask you questions such as these during an interview. Consider your potential response to these questions. You may be asked questions that are not included below.

- **Tell us about yourself.** Practice your elevator pitch. Talk about who you are now, how those previous experiences have shaped you, and what lies ahead in the future.
- **Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?** Discuss your relevant skills, traits, and experiences that qualify you for the position you are applying for.
- **What are your strengths and weaknesses?** Share your strengths humbly, and your weaknesses with a growth mindset to show self-awareness and professional development.
- **Where do you see yourself in five years?** Provide a realistic answer, but integrate the job into your future. Speak of genuine and relevant career goals.
- **Why did you apply for this position?** Demonstrate that you have done your research, and discuss how the company's mission and vision aligns with your values.

Questions to Ask the Employer

Prepare at least a couple of questions for the interviewer. Having thoughtful, prepared questions about their job, the position, or the company shows your genuine interest and engagement. It is also an opportunity to display that you are familiar with the company or the industry.

- **In the first six months, what would you expect me to accomplish?** This is a realistic opportunity for you to learn what will be expected of you.
- **What are some qualities of people who have excelled in this position?** Learning from other successful people at the company can provide valuable insight.
- **What professional development and growth opportunities are there here?** This can give you insight on potential career progression.
- **What are the most challenging and favorite parts of your job?** Asking about their experience can make the interview feel a little bit more authentic and enjoyable.
- **How would you describe the culture of this company?** You can learn a lot about a company based on how the employees describe it.

Interviewing DOs

- **Know your resume.** It may sound obvious, but the last thing you want to do is contradict yourself. Refer back to the information on your resume, but add more detail.
- **Dress professionally.** Dress for the job you want, not the job you are applying for. Proper and clean clothing conveys responsibility and confidence.
- **Build your vocabulary.** Expanding your vocabulary can prevent you from becoming repetitive and demonstrate your knowledge within your field.
- **Breathe and relax.** An interview is simply a structured conversation. Practice with Career Services to improve your interviewing skills and gain confidence.
- **Follow up.** Reaching out to thank an employer after an interview is highly encouraged. Highlight your interest in the position.

Interviewing DON'Ts

- **Do not memorize a script.** It can sound very repetitive, and lacks authenticity. Instead, remember some talking points and practice being flexible in conversation.
- **Avoid one word answers.** Every question is intended to gain information about you. When asked a closed-ended question, be sure to provide context to your answer.
- **Never speak poorly of a previous employer.** Maintain a positive and professional perspective on past experiences.
- **Do not fidget and slouch.** Your posture and body language are factors in how you are perceived. Also, be aware of your hands, and facial expressions.
- **Do not ask about salary and benefits too soon.** These questions are appropriate. However, bringing them up too early may negatively impact their impression of you.

The SAR Method

Utilize the SAR method to answer behavioral interview questions. These questions are designed to help the employer understand how you have handled past situations. SAR stands for situation, action, and result. First, describe the situation, then the action you took, and the result. Add details for context and interest. Below are some behavioral questions.

- **Give an example of a time when you went above and beyond.**
- **Describe a time you had to work with someone who had a difficult personality.**
- **Tell me about a time you received constructive criticism and used it to improve.**