

Tough Interview Questions

Tell me about yourself.

Don't tell the interviewer your life history. Give them a quick rundown of your qualifications and experience: education, work history, recent career experience, and future goals.

Why did you leave your last job?

Talk about your experience and goals. DON'T badmouth a former employer. Tell what you learned from previous positions and how those skills can be applied to this new position.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Let them know you're stable, reliable, and would like to be invested in the company.

What are your weaknesses?

Let the interview know of a couple skills you would like to develop further.

Why were you laid off?

This is becoming a more common question. Answer as honestly as possible.

Tell me about the worst boss you've ever had?

NEVER talk badly of past bosses. Talk about different management styles and what you've learned from them.

How would others describe you?

When employed, ask coworkers and supervisors for feedback about your performance. Then you'll be able to answer this easily. If you haven't been employed ask someone you volunteer with or are in a group with.

What can you offer that another person can't?

Use specific examples from past performance. Show them that you will get results and that you're more than just a good talker.

If you could choose any company to work for, where would you go?

NEVER say that you would choose any company other than the one where you are interviewing. Talk about the job and the company for which you are being interviewed.

Would you be willing to take a salary cut?

Let them know what you're making now and a range that most people in the field are making. You can always offer to take a small cut and revisit the subject in a few months after you've proven yourself.

Questions to Ask on an Interview

Always have questions to ask the interviewer. You want to be interested in the position, the company, and the community.

Can you give me more details about the position's responsibilities?

Where do you see this position going in the next few years?

What are the most challenging aspects of the job for which I'm being considered?

Where are you in the hiring process? What's the next step?

What would you consider to be the most important aspects of this job?

How is success measured in this department/organization?

Does the management encourage the policy of promotion in the organization?

What characteristics does a successful person have in your organization?



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