

Frequently Asked Interview Questions

The following are some of the most common, general interview questions that employers may ask in an interview. Keep in mind that there will also be specific questions about the position and the qualifications the employer is looking for in candidates. Whenever possible, give the employer specific examples in your question responses.

1. Tell me about yourself.

Your answer should essentially be your elevator pitch – where you have been (past experiences), where you are now (current roles), and where you would like to be in the future (future goals). Do not go into detail about your extracurricular activities or other interests; focus on your educational background and work experience. Your answer should be 30 seconds to one minute in length.

2. What are three of your strengths?

Tell the employer about three of your strengths that are relevant to the position for which you are applying. Think about transferrable skills, and make sure that you also include an example of when you have used this strength.

3. What are three of your weaknesses?

Everyone has weaknesses. Discuss how you are actively working on and progressing with them.

4. What attracted you to this position?

Explain why you are attracted to this position and not just any position in the field.

5. What attracted you to this company?

This is your opportunity to show the employer what research you have done about the company. They want to see that you did your research and are genuinely interested in their particular company. What interests you about this company above others in the industry?

6. Why did you choose this career field?

Talk about your reasons for pursuing this particular career field. Relate this back to the position for which you are interviewing if possible.

7. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Tell the employer about skills you would like to gain and opportunities you would like to be given. You can give a general idea of where you see yourself in five years rather than listing specific job titles.

8. What is the biggest challenge that you have faced?

If you can think of one, use a work-related example for this. Describe the challenge, but also discuss how you were successful in overcoming the challenge.

9. Why should I hire you?

Explain why you believe you would be a good candidate for the position and an asset for the company, outlining any unique qualities that you think set you apart from the other candidates.

10. What is your ideal work environment?

Through this question, the employer is trying to assess whether you would work well in their work environment. Be truthful about what you like in a physical work space but also align your answer with the type of work space you would likely have in the role for which you are interviewing.

11. Is there anything else we should know about you in considering you for this position?

Never answer “no” to this question. Add any additional information you would like the employer to know, and then, again, explain why you would be a good candidate for the position and express your interest in the position.