Video 6.1 Questions to the interviewer

Hi! In this video, we are going to look at some questions you can ask the interviewer.

Any interview should be two-sided. It means that *you also* need to ask some relevant questions about the project or company. In this way, you'll demonstrate your interest, initiative and strategic understanding of the position for which you are being interviewed. Having no questions, on the other hand, sends the message that you haven't given the interview enough thought, or that don't have enough experience.

Now I'm going to share with you some tips for asking the interviewer some questions.

Whenever you ask a question at the interview, make sure you do that at the appropriate moment **during** or **after** your interview.

First, let's look at the situations when you might need to ask some questions *during* the interview.

Sometimes it could be necessary to find out additional details about the technical side of things in order to offer a better solution. For instance, imagine that you are dealing with the interviewer's task about some app development. Don't hurry to provide your solution straight away. Be proactive and find out more information about the task by asking the interviewer clarifying questions. For example, you could ask one of the following questions:

- *What features do you want to implement immediately? And what features can wait until later in the project?*
- *How many people will use the system every day, both customers and admin staff?*
- *What are the deadlines for the development and implementation?*

With the help of clarifying questions, you will get valuable information to provide the best answer to the interviewer's question. Also, by asking questions, you can show the interviewer your well-developed critical thinking skills.

When clarifying, make sure you ask not only closed, but also open-ended questions. They will provide you with more information. For example, instead of *Do you expect this kind of information to be in there?* ask *What do you expect to see when you..?* If you didn't quite understand the answer, don't be afraid to ask for additional clarification, e.g. *Sorry, do you mean…?,* or *Are you saying that…?*

Another situation when you may need to ask questions is the *end* of the interview when the interviewer says *Do you have any questions?* It is a good idea to prepare your questions in advance. Show the interviewer that you have done your research about the company or the project. Collect as much information as possible about the company, the customer, the project and the position. You could also check out who your interviewer is going to be. Write down everything interesting and everything you want more information on. It's good to prepare at least *three* questions. But remember, some of them might be already answered *during* the interview. In this case, of course, do not ask them again just because they are on your list. You also need to avoid questions that are clearly answered on the website or in any material provided by the interviewer to you in advance. This would simply show that you are not well prepared.

So, what kind of questions **can** you ask?

Possible question topics really depend on each particular case. Here are only some of them, followed by sample questions.

You could ask about:

- The project*, How much time do we have to complete this project? What software development methodology do you use? Are there any issues on the project that need to be addressed immediately?*

- The position, for example, *How much time do you give a newcomer to integrate into the team?* or *What are your expectations of the candidate?* or *How do you measure the success of a person in this position?*
- and the team, something like *Can you tell me about the team I will work with?* or *Is the team globally distributed? Do you work across different time zones?*

Finally, be proactive, but not overconfident, and avoid interrupting the interviewer.

Well, those were the main recommendations on how to be an active participant of the interview!