ESL Topics: Job Interview Questions

Sample Questions & Answers:

Beginner:

1.) Please, tell me a little bit about yourself?

As you know, I'm a recent graduate from the university of Toronto, majoring in computer sciences. I have always had a passion for computers and technology since I got my first computer as a kid. I have been coding ever since. When I am not programming I enjoy photography and studying language I am proficient in both English and French. I also love exercise and lifting weights.

2.) Tell me about your previous work history?

I have spent the last three years as a freelance web developer creating small web applications and working on the weekends as a wedding photographer. Prior to that, I worked overseas teaching English.

3.) What are some of your strengths?

I have a knack for design. Being a photographer and designer I can help create logos, mix and match design patterns and colors, and I've been told I can write clearly and concisely.

4.) What are some of your weaknesses?

I haven't worked on a lot of big programming projects with many team members. This is my main weakness.

5.) Tell me a few of your personal achievements?

I have created several websites that earn passive-income. While I can't retire on the earnings it allows me to save for my future. Another accomplishment of mine that I am truly proud of is my ability to speak

several languages. It has been very helpful in dealing with overseas clients and travel.

6.) How do you work under pressure?

I try to avoid stressful situations by planning in advance and always being ahead of schedule. However, clients often change their wants and needs and I've been able to adapt quite well.

Intermediate:

1.) What working environment do you work best in?

I work best having strict guidelines to follow. If I am in charge, I like others to follow my decisions without hesitation. However, if I am not in charge of a project I have no problem following orders and guidelines.

2.) Are you willing to relocate overseas or travel abroad on business?

I have spent several years living in both Europe and Asia. I have no problem relocating overseas. Actually, one of the main reasons why I am interested in working for your company is that there are opportunities to work overseas!

3.) What is important to you from an employer?

I think what is most important from an employer is the ability to recognize and reward hard work. I like to go above and beyond what is expected in the workplace, and I want my employer or clients to recognize that.

4.) What do you know about our company? Why do you want to work for us?

I know that this company is a leader in developing personalized software for medium and large size companies. For that reason I know that I will be challenged as a software engineer and will face some difficult problems to solve as a member of a team.

I have been following the growth of this company for the past several years and admire how this company has been able to evolve and meet

the software needs of companies throughout North America and Europe.

For this reason I know if I work hard I will always have a secure and challenging job at this company.

Advanced:

1.) Describe for me a difficult situation you were faced with. How did you overcome the problematic situation?

One of the most difficult situations I was faced with was when I was developing a mobile app for a company. The CEO of the company was reluctant to take my advice and create an app that had the possibility to meet the needs of a larger user-base. He was convinced that it was unnecessary to create such a large database.

In the end, I had to refuse the project because I felt unsatisfied with my work and the outcome.

3.) Do you prefer working with others as a part of a team, or do you prefer working alone?

I work well in both circumstances. However, recently I prefer working as a member of a team. I feel it allows for more creativity, brainstorming and feedback, which create an atmosphere with better results.

4.) Why did you chose your major in university? Do you have any regrets about your educational path?

I am very fortunate to have chosen a major that I not only love, but also is in high-demand. I always knew that the problems of the future would require computers and technology to solve them, and I want to be a part of that.

Tips:

1.) While we practice mock interviews, try to maintain eye contact and speak clearly and concisely.

2.) Don't memorize answers word for word. Study your answers in point form.

3.) Remember to relax, smile and breath. Good Luck!

Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) proficient	a.) accomplishment
2.) freelance	b.) doubtfulness
3.) prior	c.) more than is required
4.) knack	d.) unwilling
5.) concisely	e.) self-employed
6.) achievements	f.) skilled
7.) passive-income	g.) short, clear and easy to understand
8.) hesitation	h.) talent
9.) "above and beyond"	i.) residual-income

Column 1	Column 2
10.) reluctant	j.) before

Questions:

1.) What are you proficient at?

2.) Would you ever consider being a freelance worker?

3.) Do you have a knack for anything?

4.) Clearly and concisely, tell me about yourself.

5.) Tell me about one of your achievements?

6.) Do you go above and beyond as an English student?

7.) What is something you are reluctant to try or do?

8.) What are your strengths?

9.) What are your weaknesses?

10.) Tell me about a difficult situation? How did you overcome it?

11.) Why do you want to work for this company?

12.) Tell me about your previous work experience?

13.) Introduce yourself.

14.) Are you willing to relocate overseas?

15.) Do you prefer working in groups or independently?

16.) What is important to you from an employer?

17.) Tell us what you know about this company?

Vocabulary:

- proficient: Skilled at doing something. *"He would be a good hire since he is proficient in Excel and Photoshop."*
- freelance: Self-employed. *"He's been a freelance writer for the past several years."*
- prior: Before. *"Prior to living in Busan he lived in Seoul."*
- knack: Natural talent. *"She has a knack for music and singing."*
- concisely: Saying something clearly without unnecessary words. *"His speech was very concise and straightforward."*
- achievements: Accomplishments. *"Winning a gold medal is quite an achievement."*
- passive-income: Income that is received on a regular basis after the work is done; Residual income. *"Some people make a living off of passive-income from YouTube videos."*
- adapt: To change to make life easier. *"Adapting to life in a foreign country can be difficult."*
- hesitation: Pausing before doing something; Having uncertainty. *"He always hesitates before making a decision."*
- "above and beyond": To do more than is required. *"I love working with Dan, he always goes above and beyond what is required as an employee."*
- personalized: Designed to meet someone's individual requirements. *"She operates her own business selling personalized cakes and chocolates."*
- evolve: To develop gradually to a more complex form. *"The company has evolved from a simple clothing line to a leader in shoe apparel."*
- reluctant: Unwilling to do something. *"My boss is reluctant to hire seasonal workers during peak season."*
- brainstorming: Creating new ideas quickly as a group to solve a specific problem. *"Our marketing team tries to brainstorm new ideas every morning for our company."*

- mock: Not real or authentic. For example, a mock interview or mock trial. *"Can we do a couple mock interviews? I need some practice before my actual interview tomorrow."*

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

1.) brain drain: When a country loses its skilled workers to foreign countries because of better pay and opportunities.

"Many Indians want to work in America which is causing brain drain for Indian companies."

2.) "The cream of the crop": This refers to the best of the best in a particular group.

"The cream of the crop in our computer science class will likely work for Google or Apple."