

# Great Answers to 8 Common English Job Interview Questions

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So you're looking for a job.

Searching for jobs is already stressful.

It's even more *nerve-wracking* (stressful) when they finally call you up for an interview.

And once you've got the job interview, congratulations...

...but now you've got something else to worry about.

**The job interview is English!**

Time to panic!

How do I answer this?

What are they going to ask?

What do I say to really impress them and make them choose me?

OK, actually, it's time to calm down and relax.

Don't worry.

Almost everybody who ever goes for a job interview is a little bit afraid... after all, this opportunity could really change your life, forever!

**Here are 8 questions that they will likely ask, along with answers to help you *rock* (do well on) your interview.**

Instead of saying “goodbye” to your dream job, you can say “hello.”

## **8 Common English Job Interview Questions and How to Answer Them Well**

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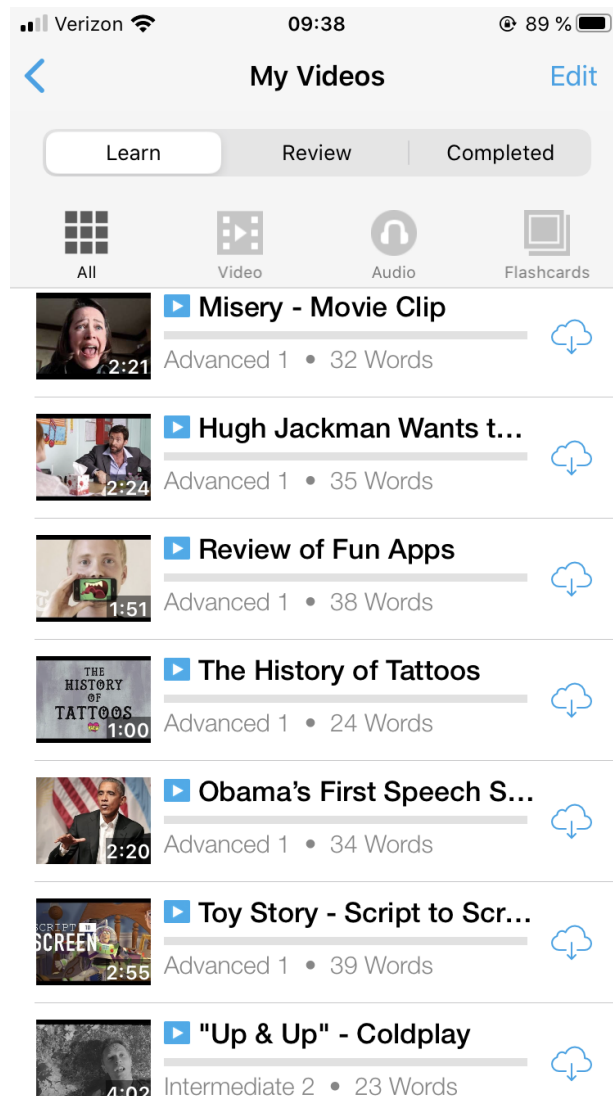
There is some great news when it comes to job interviews. It's not all doom and gloom (bad). Most recruiters these days ask the interviewees (you) the same basic questions. So with a little preparation, you can speak very well at your interview, even if you don't have a very advanced level of English.

FluentU is one of the fastest (and most fun) tools to prepare for English conversations.

**FluentU takes real-world videos—like music videos, movie trailers, news and inspiring talks—and turns them into personalized language learning lessons.**

Unlike traditional language learning sites, FluentU uses a natural approach that helps you ease into the English language and culture over time. You'll learn English as it's spoken in real life.

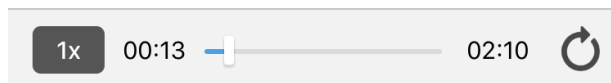
FluentU has a variety of engaging content from popular talk shows, nature documentaries and funny commercials, as you can see here:



FluentU makes it really easy to watch English videos. There are **captions that are interactive**. That means you can tap on any word to see an image, definition and useful examples.



Well, a friend of mine,  
Steven Spielberg, told  
me to look on the Harlem  
Village Academy  
website and I was blown  
away by it,



For example, when you tap on the word "searching," you'll see this:

Quit

Learn this word [Already know](#)



**searching**

verb present participle to try to find;  
to look for



I spent an hour searching for  
my keys.



Continue

Learn all the vocabulary in any video with **quizzes**. Swipe left or right to see more examples for the word you're learning.



Fill in the blank [Already know](#)



I spent three years \_\_\_\_ for  
that company.



Hint: (verb) (present participle) to perform an  
activity that is not for leisure, typically as part  
of a job

w o r k i n g

Correct!  
+20

Continue

The best part is that FluentU keeps track of the vocabulary that you're learning and gives you extra practice with difficult words. It even reminds you when it's time to review! Every learner has a **truly personalized experience**, even if they're learning with the same video.

You can start using the FluentU website on your computer or tablet or, better yet, by downloading the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores.

## 1. Tell me about yourself

After greeting, shaking hands and introducing yourself, the next thing that interviewers are probably going to ask you to do is to talk about yourself.

Now, this might seem easy for you – you've practiced it in your English class so much, but they don't want to hear every single detail. Avoid saying something like: *I was born in Beijing. I love playing the computer and surfing the net. or I have two sisters.* They don't want to know everything about you. They want to know about you and your career growth; they want to know about you related to the job you're applying for.

Also, make sure you don't use any informal slang or make any basic grammar mistakes.

**For example:**

*I've been working as a junior chef at a small Italian restaurant for 2 years and my duties included assisting the head chef and preparing salads. I have always been interested in food and cooking which was why I chose to follow this career path. I studied at \*\*\*\*\* college, where I gained my first level cooking diploma.*

## **2. What are your strengths?**

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When your interviewer asks you this question, they want to know all your positive qualities. These positive qualities need to relate to what they want and are looking for.

So before you head into your interview, make sure you do your research as to what kind of person suits this job, especially if you're a newbie (new) and entering the workforce for the first time. Treat this question as a chance to advertise yourself – you are the product, now market yourself. The thing to remember here is not to just list a number of adjectives (anyone can do this). Instead, use examples to support your point.

**For example, you could answer with any of the following:**

**To be punctual** – *to be on time.*

*I'm a punctual person. I always arrive early and complete my work on time. My previous job had a lot of **deadlines** (time when you must finish something by) and I made sure that I was organized and **adhered to** (respected) all my jobs.*

**To be a team-player** – *to work well with others. I consider myself to be a team-player. I like to work with other people and I find that it's much easier to achieve something when everyone works together and communicates well.*

**To be ambitious** – *to have goals. I'm ambitious. I have always set myself goals and it motivates me to work hard. I have achieved my goals so far with my training, education and work experience and now I am looking for ways to improve myself and grow.*

**To take initiative** – *to do something without having to be told to do it. When I work, I always take initiative. If I see something that needs doing, I don't wait for instruction, I do it. I believe that to be get anywhere in life, you need this quality.*

**To be proactive** – *To do things and make them happen. I'm proactive. When I think about things, I do them. I like to see results and it's important in this industry to be proactive and responsible for your own actions.*

**To keep your cool** – *To stay calm in all kinds of situations. I think it's really important to be able to stay calm when you're working as a reporter. It can get really stressful, but one of my greatest qualities is that I can keep my cool and I don't allow the pressure to get to me, which helps me achieve all my goals and remain focused.* Here are a number of other words that can help you answer this question:

<b>Focused (Adj)</b>	To concentrate well	<b>Confident (adj)</b>	Not shy
<b>Problem-solver (N)</b>	Can find answers to problems easily	<b>Team building skills (N)</b>	You're able to take the lead and be the leader of the group.
<b>Negotiate (V)</b>	To be able to get a better deal that is favorable to you	<b>To have a good work ethic (V)</b>	To work hard, follow the rules and respect your duties of the job.

**REMEMBER:** It's really important that you give good, solid answers and back them up with evidence otherwise it's just going to sound like you've memorized what you're saying. Some companies won't directly ask you what your strengths are, they could ask the same thing, but using different words, such as:

- *Why do you think we should hire you?*
- *Why do you think you're the best person for this job?*
- *What can you offer us?*
- *What makes you a good fit for our company?*

### 3. What are your weaknesses?

*What? I don't have any weaknesses!* Of course you do – no one's perfect. Everyone has weaknesses, but what they're checking for here is how you try to fix your weaknesses and they also want to know how self-aware (how much you know about yourself) you are.

Another trick here is to turn those weaker qualities into positive qualities. For example, your weakness is that you spend too much time on projects which makes you work slower. Turn that into a positive by saying: *I sometimes am slower in completing my tasks compared to others because I really want to get things right. I will double or sometimes triple-check documents and files to make sure everything is accurate (correct).*

Another great trick is to talk about a weakness (like being disorganized) and mention some methods that you are using to help overcome this: e.g. *I have created a **time-management system**, which allows me to list all my duties and organize my deadlines so I have a clearer idea of what I need to do.*



## 4. Why did you leave your last job?

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If you're applying for your first job, this question is not for you.

However, if you've worked before, the interviewer wants to find out why you left your old job. Did you leave because you were **fired**? (Your old boss asked you to leave for doing something wrong). Did you **quit**? (**Resign** – Did you choose to stop working?) Or were you **laid off**? (*Made redundant* – no longer needed because the job is no longer available?)

If you chose to leave your old job, avoid saying anything negative about your old workplace or boss (even if this is true). The person or people interviewing you will just look at you in a negative way. You can say the following:

- *I'm looking for new challenges.*
- *I feel I wasn't able to show my talents.*
- *I'm looking for a job that suits my qualifications.*
- *I'm looking for a job where I can grow with the company.*

## 5. Tell us about your education

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Here they want to know everything you've studied related to the job. For example your training and **further education** (e.g. university, polytechnic, college). You don't need to tell them everything you've done since elementary school, just the important things.

Your: **Degrees** – 3-4 year qualification from university/college.

**Diploma** – A short-term qualification (e.g. 1 year) from college/university/polytechnic.

**Certificate** – A piece of paper showing your participation in a course. NB: Make sure you take all the necessary documents with you, as they may need proof!

If they ask you the question: ***tell us about your scholastic record***, they want to know what kind of grades you received.

## 6. Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

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Here, they are asking about your goals. Again, it's related to your career, not your personal life. So if having a family is on the list, don't mention it. Be careful what you say here, you need to be ambitious, but NOT too ambitious as those interviewing you may see you as a threat (competition). You can mention: *By then I will have...I would have liked to...*

- Improved my skills
- Created more of a name for myself in the industry (become more known for what you do).
- Become more independent in what I do and productive (doing more).

- Enhanced (improved) my knowledge.
- Achieved a higher position.
- Become a team leader...

## 7. What kind of salary do you expect?

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Here, they are asking you about how much money you would expect to earn from the job. Be reasonable. Make sure you do your research on the internet about what the average salary is. Do not say *I don't know*, it makes you sound unsure. Be confident and name your price without *selling yourself too short* (going for less) or going too high. The truth of the matter is, they already have a salary in mind, but this is their way of checking if you know the industry and if you're aware of your own skills.

## 8. Do you have any questions for me/us?

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Yes, you do! This is how an interviewer will usually finish the interview. They are not just being polite—they want you to speak.

For a super fun way to prepare for job interviews (and job interview questions) with a relaxed and pressure-free method, check out the video below. Language coach Fallon walks you through the different steps of a job interview in English, from introductions to closing questions!

Best of all, the video includes clips from film and TV to highlight everyday interview situations! For more great videos about English interactions and learning, be sure to [subscribe to the FluentU English YouTube channel](#) and hit the notification button.

Remember, they're still judging you as you answer this question. So don't ask anything that will make you sound silly, such as *what kind of work does your company do?* Or *how much vacation time do I get each year?* You want to find out more, and if you don't ask any questions, then they may view this as you being not very interested in the job. Ask questions like:

*Do you have any examples of projects that I would be working on if I were to be offered the job?* This shows that you're interested in the actual job and not just being employed.

*What is the typical day for this **position** (job)?* Find out what kind of duties are involved and what kind of things you would be expected to do on a day-to-day basis.

*Does the company offer in-house training to staff?* This shows your interest in not only getting the job, but also wanting to improve and grow.

*What is the next step?* Here, this is a way of asking what is next in the interview process. They will tell you how many days it will take to make their decision and will inform you if you need to come back for a second interview.

Job interviews don't have to be scary. Remember first impressions count, think before you speak, and show your great English skills and give awesome answers to win that job. Good luck!

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