# job Interview Question: Are You Lucky?

It's important to demonstrate a balanced but optimistic attitude in your answer. Begin by referencing some reasons why you have been fortunate, like having strong family support, great mentors, inspiring bosses, or a solid education at an outstanding school.  Factors like these point to [strengths in your background](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/resume-strengths-list-2063804)that will be interpreted by interviewers as a sound basis for future achievements.

for example, you might say, "*My childhood did have its challenges. My dad worked for the army and we moved six times during my elementary and high schools years. Each time I needed to establish new relationships with peers, coaches, and teachers which was really difficult.But I think it taught me to adapt to different situations, meet new people, and develop close relationships quickly."*

# Job Interview Question: Are You Nice?

Sometimes, employers will ask you this question because they want to hire 'nice' people. If this is the case, the best way you can respond is to provide a personal anecdote about a time you demonstrated 'niceness' at a previous job.

There are many kinds of 'niceness': being compassionate toward others; being a [team player](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-do-you-feel-about-working-on-a-team-2064067); being respectful of your boss or your staff; etc. Think of the job at hand and what kind of expressions or manifestations of 'niceness' would be important in that context. Then provide an anecdote about how you have demonstrated that kind of 'niceness' in previous roles, and how it helped you to achieve something at work.

*I consider myself to be extremely nice, which helps me to be a more effective leader. For example, whenever my staff members struggle with their performance, first I sit down with them and listen to their concerns. Then I work with them to come up with a solution to improve their work. I believe my compassion is what has led my previous employees to achieve consistently high sales numbers.*

# Job Interview Question: What Motivates You?

**Prepare before your interview.**It can be hard to think of a good answer for this question on the spot since it requires a bit of self-reflection.To prepare your answer, think about the jobs you have held in the past: 1) What happened during your best days? 2)When were you most looking forward to a day at the office? 3)When did you come home from work bursting with stories, and feeling enthusiastic and excited? Whether it was a successful meeting with a client, a complex project wrangled into submission, a new skill you mastered, or anything else, keep these positive moments in your mind when conceptualizing your answer.

**Keep the job in mind.**When preparing your answer, also think about the [skills and abilities](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/list-of-the-best-skills-for-resumes-2062422) that will be the most useful in the job. Try to highlight these in your answer. For example, if you are applying to be a manager, framing an answer around relationship-building and helping others succeed and meet goals might be a stronger answer than a discussion about learning new things or working with clients.

Consider the company culture. If the company emphasizes the camaraderie of its staff, for example, you might mention how achieving goals as a group motivates you.

* *I'm really driven by results — I like it when I have a concrete goal to meet, and enough time to figure out a strong strategy for accomplishing it. At my last job, our yearly goals were very aggressive, but I worked with my manager and the rest of my team to figure out a month-by-month strategy for meeting the year-end numbers. It was a real thrill to accomplish that.*
* *I'm motivated by digging into data. Give me a spreadsheet and questions, and I'm eager to figure out what's driving the numbers. At my current position, I prepare the monthly analytics report around sales. The data from these reports help drive and determine how the company charts its next steps and makes sales goals for the following months. Being able to provide that essential information is really motivating.*
* *I was responsible for several projects where I directed development teams and implemented repeatable processes. The teams achieved 100 percent on-time delivery of software products. I was motivated both by the challenge of finishing the projects ahead of schedule and by managing the teams that achieved our goals.*
* *I have always wanted to ensure that my company's clients get the best customer service I can offer. I feel that it's important, both to me personally and for the company and the clients, to provide a positive customer experience. My drive to constantly develop my customer service skills is the reason I earned top sales at my company two quarters in a row.*
* *I have always been motivated by the desire to meet a deadline. Setting and reaching deadlines gives me such a sense of accomplishment. I love creating an organized schedule for completing a task and achieving my deadlines. For example, when I ran a fundraising event last year, I set multiple deadlines for a variety of tasks leading up to the event. Achieving each milestone motivated me to keep working, and helped me to ensure that the event ran smoothly.*

# Job Interview Question: What Are You Passionate About?

Employers ask about your passions for a number of reasons. For example, they might ask about your passions to learn about your personal interests and values. This question helps the employer see that you're a well-rounded person, with a life outside of the office.Pick a passion that you are actively involved with in some way. For example, you might say your passion is playing guitar, and you can add that you are in a band. If you say your passion is working with children, you can mention a [volunteer](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-turn-a-volunteer-position-into-a-job-2062644)organization you work for. You want to show your ability to devote yourself to something you believe in, so you need to show how you follow through with your passion.Keep in mind that your passion can be almost anything. It can be a hobby you have, a cause you believe in, or even an abstract idea like competition or making a difference in other people’s lives. Just make sure it is something you are genuinely passionate about, something you know a bit about, and something you are actively engaged in.

*I'm passionate about baking: I love the process of researching new recipes and testing them out. I've been writing up my experiences baking for the past three years, and every year, I host a massive cookie swap around the holiday time with friends. I’m very detail-oriented, and love the scientific aspects of baking. However, I’m also a very social person, and use my baking as a chance to get together with friends and family.*

*Animals are my passion. I have two dogs and a cat, and I volunteer at my town’s pet adoption clinic every other weekend. I enjoy early morning walks and weekend hikes with my dogs. It helps me focus and gather my thoughts. I know your office has a dog-friendly policy, which I love!*

# Job Interview Question: What Are Your Hobbies?

The employer might want to get a sense of who you are beyond simply being a potential employee. They want to know if you will fit in with the other people in the department, and if you will fit in with the [company culture](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/what-is-company-culture-2062000). For example, if you say you love soccer and play in an intramural league, this might impress a hiring manager who is looking for a real [team player](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-do-you-feel-about-working-on-a-team-2064067).Some employers also ask about your hobbies to get a sense of your ability to balance your work and personal life. They want to know you have a life outside of work, but that you won’t let it interfere with your ability to get tasks done. Maybe you're a fan of the New York Times crossword puzzle; perhaps you love to read mystery novels or make quilts. Whatever you choose, make sure it paints you in a positive light. Maybe it even reveals a quality you have that is useful for the job. For example, perhaps you can mention your love of carefully completing the Sunday crossword puzzle to demonstrate your attention to detail.**Types of Hobbies to Mention**Still having trouble thinking of a hobby to mention? Below are a few types of hobbies you might mention in your interview. Read the description of each, as well as tips on what each hobby might convey to the interviewer about who you are:

1)**Exercise and Health-Related Activities:** It's true that exercise and fitness-related hobbies can demonstrate health, energy, vitality, and the ability to manage stress. Older candidates, in particular, might consider making some points of this sort. Sports like golf, tennis, and skiing can be useful ways to interact with clients and build relationships. Sports can also help demonstrate an ability to be a strong team member. But remember to be honest first and foremost. You don't want to brag about being a “golf pro" and then get to the driving range with your new employer, only to have no idea what to do.

2) **Volunteering and Community Participation:** In addition, you might mention your volunteer work or community activities, like coaching your child's baseball team. [Volunteer work](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-turn-a-volunteer-position-into-a-job-2062644) shows high character and a concern for someone other than yourself. Working for community-based organizations is also a great way to source potential clients while pursuing a common interest.

**3)Professional Development and Continuing Education:**Professional development activities are another potentially rich area you can mention when sharing how you use your spare time. Maybe you take classes or seminars, read journals, or complete online tutorials that enhance skills related to your job. Maybe you're learning another language in your spare time

*I love being outdoors—I do a lot of day hikes with my dog, and I enjoy going on camping trips with my friends and family. I find being outside is a great way to de-stress. It is also a great way to spend quality time with my friends and family, away from our phones and computers and busy lives.*

*One of my hobbies is playing club sports. I currently play on a local soccer team, and I also play on a roller hockey team. I love activities that allow me to meet new people and work with others.*

*I love reading novels—it is something I try to do every day, even if it is only for a few minutes before bed. Reading novels helps relax me, and also helps me think more creatively. I just finished reading Jhumpa Lahiri’s*The Namesake*, and am currently looking for a new book. I heard that your office has an informal book club, which I love!*

# Job Interview Question: Pet Peeves

One way to answer this question is to focus on a pet peeve that is unrelated to the job (for example, your pet peeve might be people who do not use their blinkers when they drive). This kind of answer will keep you from saying something negative that is related to the job.You can also describe a pet peeve that is related to the workplace, and that would be a negative for the job. For example, if the job involves a lot of [teamwork](https://www.thebalancecareers.com/job-interview-question-give-some-examples-of-teamwork-2061285), you might say your pet peeve is when a person cannot effectively work with a group. However, be sure to explain then how you would deal with that situation.You might also turn this question around, and emphasize your work standards. For example, you might say that you dislike when people do not push themselves to go beyond the bare minimum, so you are always pushing yourself to achieve the best results on any project.

*If you asked my teenage daughter, she would probably tell you my pet peeve is the volume of her music and the mess in her room. However, I do not have any other specific pet peeves. If something is bothering me, I step back, analyze "why,” and find a good solution.*

*I do not like when people have negative attitudes, particularly in the workplace. I like to remain positive, even during a difficult situation, and do not let people’s negative attitudes affect me.*

*I dislike when I see a team member refusing to carry his or her weight on a project. As team members, it is our job to help the whole team achieve success. When I see someone not doing his or her task, I communicate clearly and effectively with the team about my concerns and try to come up with a solution, such as redistributing some of the tasks*