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Common Questions

26 questions

Categories

1 Tell me about yourself.

2 What is your greatest strength?

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6 Tell me about a time you showed leadership.

7 Tell me about a time you were successful on a team.

8 What would your co-workers say about you?

9 Why do you want to leave your current role?

10 Describe your most challenging project.

11 Tell me about something you've accomplished that you are proud of.

12 Can you explain your employment gap?

13 What are your salary expectations?

14 What do you like to do outside of work?

15 Tell me about a time you had to manage conflicting priorities.

16 Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

17 Describe your leadership style.

18 Tell me about a time you failed or made a mistake.

19 Tell me about a time you worked with a difficult person.

20 Tell me about a time you had to persuade someone.

21 Tell me about a time you disagreed with someone.

22 Tell me about a time you created a goal and achieved it.

23 Tell me about a time you surpassed people's expectations.

24 Tell me about a time you had to handle pressure.

25 Tell me about a time you had to learn something quickly.

26 Do you have any questions for me?

Can you explain your employment gap?

Practice and get feedback

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Overview

This question isn't designed to rule you out - it's a good sign if you get the interview. Interviewers want to get more context about the gap and whether you're still going to be a great fit for the role, despite the gap.

PREMIUM

Sample answers

Sample answer 1

By Jenny Foss, Career Strategist at linkedin-corp

215,457 views · Includes video

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Yes, so a few years ago I was working in Seattle as a global finance manager. I loved my job and got to travel all over the world. My dad, who lives in Michigan, was diagnosed with dementia that same year, and my mom was...

Sample answer 2

By Marketing Insights Manager Professional

163,297 views

View

Looking at my resume, you'll notice I have an employment gap of 5 months. I was relocating internationally and had to go through the administrative process of procuring my travel visa and work authorization permits. Durin...

Sample answer 3

By Product Manager Professional

144,530 views

View

The 2-month gap on my resume was intentional. I wanted to leave space to prepare for a big international move and take the opportunity to travel. I'd been heads-down for much of my career, and this seemed like an ideal...

Sample answer 4

By Regional Sales Manager Professional

124,575 views

View

After experiencing a layoff, I created a list of things I wanted to accomplish with the time. I had always wished for more time for creative pursuits like fiction writing, so I spent time developing a TV pilot and framework for a 10...

Answer framework



How to approach this question

By Jenny Foss, Career Strategist at linkedin-corp

2 mins · 130,852 views

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Most people are nervous about how a gap will be perceived—even if there's a good explanation. But if they've invited you in for an interview, then the gap hasn't ruled you out. Here are some tips on how to discuss it:

Be honest.

The truth will set you free. Try to put the situation into the best light and don't lie; it's bound to come back and haunt you. So if your job was eliminated through a merger, just say so.

Speak with confidence.

For example, if you had taken some time away from working, avoid acting like you're embarrassed, apologetic or ashamed. The interviewer is going to pick up on that. Instead, pause and you see how they respond. The more calm, succinct and confident you are, the more at ease the interviewer will be with your answer—and with you.

Show the benefits of your time off.

Bring up the good that came out of that time whether you were laid off, stepped away to be with family, or even got fired. It's a great way to reframe the situation and an opportunity to showcase some useful skills that you gained during that time.

See less

Tips

- Expect that they will ask about the gap - prepare for it.
- Answer honestly and strategically.
- Be confident and succinct.
- Shine a light on the good that came out of that time.

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