**Ownership**

**[Tell me about a time you did something at work that wasn't your responsibility / in your job description](https://igotanoffer.com/blogs/tech/tell-me-about-a-time-you-showed-leadership" \l "examples" \o "Amazon behavioral questions: Ownership - leadership example)**

Example:

* **Situation**:  
  "During my internship at the Chevron Technical Center, I was part of a team of interns working on a collaborative machine learning project. One of the interns, an undergraduate with limited ML experience, was significantly behind on his portion of the work. His mentor was unavailable most of the time, and the delays were starting to risk the timeline for the whole project."
* **Task**:  
  "While we were each responsible for individual parts of a larger ML pipeline, his delays were starting to impact overall progress. Although it wasn’t part of my role to support other interns, I recognized that helping him get unstuck would benefit the team and project as a whole."
* **Action**:  
  " I decided to take initiative and help him. After completing my own assigned work, I took some extra time to help him ramp up. I walked him through key parts of the codebase, explained how to navigate our system, and shared useful ML tools and tutorials to accelerate his learning. I also helped him troubleshoot several key issues, including challenges in hyperparameter tuning and model validation."
* **Result**:  
  "With this support, he was able to complete his part of the project on time, and we both contributed successfully to a strong final report for the technical center and our customers. My efforts also helped build team cohesion and ensured smoother integration of all our work into the main project branch."

**Tell me about a time when you had to make an important decision without approval from your boss**

* **Task:** “Although my official responsibility was limited to my own deliverables, I recognized that if he didn’t complete his part, it would impact the quality and integration of the final project. I didn’t have time to wait for approval from my mentor, who was also very busy, and I had to decide whether to step in.”

**Deliver Results**

* **[Tell me about a time you came across a scenario where the deadline given to you for a project was earlier than expected](https://igotanoffer.com/blogs/tech/behavioral-interview-questions" \l "deadline" \o "Amazon behavioral questions - deadline)**
* **Situation**:  
  "During my internship at Chevron, I was developing a pipeline to automate simulation submissions and machine learning analysis. The original plan was to complete the project about a week before the end of my internship, allowing time for thorough testing and result refinement ahead of a final showcase. However, midway through the internship, I was informed that the showcase had been rescheduled to two weeks earlier to accommodate a larger group of intern presenters."
* **Task**:  
  "With the new deadline, I had significantly less time to finish the project, ensure the results were sound, and prepare an effective presentation. My goal was to maintain the quality of the deliverables while adjusting to the accelerated timeline."
* **Action**:  
  "To adapt, I quickly reassessed priorities. I focused on completing the most impactful components of the pipeline first—such as the simulation interface and the core ML analysis. I limited the scope of non-essential features and ran targeted tests to validate the system’s performance. In parallel, I drafted a structured and focused presentation outline and began rehearsing earlier than planned to ensure clarity and confidence. I also kept my manager in the loop with regular updates on my progress and any trade-offs I was making."
* **Result**:  
  "Despite the compressed timeline, I successfully completed the pipeline and delivered a well-received presentation at the showcase. My work drew positive feedback for both its technical depth and clarity, and the team appreciated my ability to pivot quickly while still delivering a strong outcome. This experience reinforced my ability to stay focused and deliver high-quality results under time pressure."
* **Tell me about the most challenging project you ever worked on**

Not experience with time series focused experience, how to use language model and do fine tuning, API, prompt engineering and fine tuning, the time is very limited, and I want to submit to a conference

* **Situation**:  
  "One of the most challenging projects I’ve worked on was a research effort focused on predicting future prices in the carbon credit market. Price forecasting in this domain is notoriously difficult due to the volatility of the market and the limited availability of high-quality, structured time series data. At the time, I was also relatively unfamiliar with advanced time series modeling techniques, which added to the challenge."
* **Task**:  
  " My objective was to build a model that could not only minimize prediction error, like MSE, but also improve directional accuracy. Correctly forecasting whether prices would go up or down. Given the complexity of the market and data limitations, this meant I had to go beyond traditional models and explore novel methods."
* **Action**:  
  "To address these challenges, I conducted a deep review of academic literature and experimented with a range of models, from ARIMA to LSTMs. Also, I expanded the scope of the input data by incorporating a wider range of information sources, including macroeconomic indicators and policy developments. Eventually, I realized that market dynamics are often driven by external narratives—such as policy changes or global economic news—so I explored the use of large language models to extract signals from unstructured text data. I integrated LLM APIs into my pipeline and done some prompt engineering work to analyze relevant news and policy documents alongside the time series data."
* **Result**:  
  " After significant testing and refinement, I developed a hybrid model that combined traditional time series forecasting with insights from NLP-based analysis. The model achieved over 80% directional accuracy for long-term price trends and also generated natural-language reports summarizing market drivers. This work opened up new possibilities for predictive modeling in underexplored domains like carbon trading and showed that leveraging LLMs can offer substantial value where structured data alone is insufficient."
* **Tell me about a time when you had two deadlines at the same time. How did you manage the situation?**
* **Situation**:  
  " Recently, I received major revision feedback from a journal for a paper I had submitted, with a strict one-month deadline to return the revised manuscript. At the same time, our research group was preparing for an upcoming industrial affiliates meeting, where I was responsible for presenting the latest progress on my project to external sponsors. Both tasks were high-priority and time-sensitive, and each required significant research, analysis, and preparation."
* **Task**:  
  " I needed to manage both the deep technical work of revising the paper and preparing an engaging, well-researched presentation for the meeting. It was important to ensure that neither task suffered in quality despite the overlapping timelines.
* **Action**:  
  " To handle this, I created a detailed weekly schedule that blocked out specific times for each task. I reserved my mornings—when I’m most focused—for work on the presentation, including experiments, data analysis, and slide preparation. Afternoons and evenings were dedicated to revising the paper, which included reviewing recent literature, refining experiments, and writing. I also pre-organized review materials and documented my ongoing results to make it easier to switch contexts. Throughout, I communicated openly with my advisor to share progress updates and get feedback on how to streamline my work further."
* **Result**:  
  " This structured approach helped me stay productive and balanced under pressure. I completed both tasks on time: the presentation was well-received by our industrial sponsors, who expressed interest in continuing support, and the paper revision was submitted successfully and received positive feedback from reviewers. The experience strengthened my skills in time management, prioritization, and communication—skills I now consistently apply when managing multiple deliverables."

**Have Backbone; Disagree and Commit**

* **[Tell me about a time you had a conflict with a coworker or manager and how you approached it](https://igotanoffer.com/blogs/tech/tell-me-about-a-time-you-had-a-conflict" \o "5 ways to answer \"Tell me about a time you had a conflict\")**
* **[Tell me about a time when people in your team didn't agree with you](https://youtu.be/n_3tjPMExTM?t=621" \o "Amazon behavioral interview example answers - Have backbone)**

**LSTM vs. LLM**

**Situation**:  
"While working on the carbon price prediction project, I collaborated closely with a teammate. Based on my analysis, I concluded that relying solely on technical time series data wouldn't be sufficient to predict the market’s directional movement. I believed that incorporating external context—such as economic news and policy changes—through large language models (LLMs) could enhance our predictions. However, my collaborator strongly preferred sticking with LSTM models, arguing that they were better suited for time series forecasting and that LLMs were not a natural fit for this task."

**Task**:  
"My goal was to advocate for a model I believed could significantly improve our results, while also respecting my teammate’s experience and ensuring we remained aligned as collaborators. I wanted to find a solution that would advance the project without creating unnecessary friction."

**Action**:  
" I suggested a dedicated meeting where we could evaluate both approaches objectively. I presented my proposal in detail, including performance metrics I’d gathered after fine-tuning the LLM-based model. I highlighted not just accuracy but directional prediction improvements and qualitative insights the model could generate. At the same time, I actively listened to my teammate’s concerns and asked questions to better understand his reasoning. Ultimately, we agreed to test both models in a controlled setup within our pipeline to compare them side by side."

**Result**:  
" The comparison showed that the LLM-enhanced model delivered a modest but meaningful improvement in directional accuracy and interpretability. We agreed to move forward with it, and the collaborative, data-driven decision-making process strengthened our working relationship. This experience taught me the value of combining technical advocacy with open communication, and how to navigate disagreement constructively in a team setting."

[**Tell me about a time your work was criticized**](https://youtu.be/vHsfTCPK_no?t=1562)

**Affiltate meeting, my work was criticized, not enough time to understand the details.**

**传统处理图片的方法，不了解machine learning做segmentation，没有特定的threshold**

* **Situation**:  
  " During my research group’s affiliates meeting, I presented a rock image segmentation framework using convolutional neural networks (CNNs). The model achieved a strong Intersection over Union (IoU) score and was effective at distinguishing rock pores and grains. However, one of the industry sponsors—a petroleum engineer not familiar with deep learning—criticized the work during the Q&A. He questioned the value of deep learning over traditional image processing methods, arguing that deep learning was overly complex, required large amounts of data, and might not generalize well to their use cases. Due to the short 10-minute presentation format, I didn’t have enough time to explain the technical advantages or address his concerns in details"
* **Task**:  
  " My goal was to respond constructively to his criticism, help him understand the value of deep learning in this context, and reinforce the relevance of our work so he and his company would continue to support the project."
* **Action**:  
  " After the meeting, I followed up with the sponsor and offered to provide a more detailed comparison. I prepared a short demo comparing classical segmentation methods—like thresholding and watershed algorithms—with our CNN-based approach, using the same dataset. I acknowledged that traditional methods could work in some scenarios, especially with clean and well-structured samples. However, I demonstrated that the CNN approach handled edge cases much more robustly—such as noisy images, overlapping textures, or irregular grain boundaries—producing more consistent and generalizable results. I also shared insights on how transfer learning and data augmentation could reduce the need for large labeled datasets, addressing his concerns about data limitations."
* **Result**:  
  " The sponsor appreciated the follow-up and the clarity of the demo. He acknowledged the advantages of the deep learning approach in complex cases and expressed renewed interest in the project’s direction. Ultimately, his company continued sponsoring our research. The experience taught me how to handle criticism professionally, communicate technical ideas to a non-technical audience, and adapt my approach to bridge gaps in understanding."

**Tell me about a time you had a conflict with your team but decided to go ahead with their proposal**

Use previous cases (LSTM / LLM)

* **Situation**:  
  " In my carbon credit prediction project, I had developed a strategy where I used sentiment scores—derived from news articles—to enhance a traditional LSTM model. I believed this approach provided a good balance of interpretability and predictive power. However, my advisor preferred a different approach: using large language models (LLMs) directly for price prediction, where the LLM would process raw news text and generate predictions based on prompt engineering. I was initially skeptical, as I felt this direction might overlook the value of structured, interpretable inputs."
* **Task**:  
  " Despite my reservations, we were working under a tight deadline to submit the project to a conference. I knew it was important to support the team’s direction, deliver high-quality work, and maintain a collaborative spirit—especially given my advisor’s experience and investment in the LLM-based approach."
* **Action**:  
  " I decided to fully commit to the proposed direction. I focused on implementing the LLM pipeline, fine-tuning prompts, and ensuring we extracted relevant and reliable insights from the unstructured text. I stayed in close communication with my advisor to align with his expectations and iterated quickly based on his feedback. After successfully completing this part of the project, I revisited my original idea and explored how the LLM-generated insights could be integrated into my LSTM framework as a secondary signal."
* **Result**:  
  " Ultimately, my advisor’s approach proved very effective, and I was able to combine it with my original method in a hybrid model that outperformed both individually. We successfully submitted the project to the conference, and I gained valuable experience in both LLM prompt engineering and time series modeling. This experience reinforced the value of staying open-minded and collaborative—even when you disagree—and how flexibility can lead to even better solutions."

**Invent and Simplify**

* [**Tell me about a time you re-designed a process and why**](https://youtu.be/kKKBwhOZC60?t=383)

**本来是LSTM，redesign AI agent to evaluation**

* **Situation**:  
  "In my carbon credit prediction project, I initially developed a pipeline that used sentiment scores—extracted from news articles—to enhance an LSTM model. The goal was to improve directional accuracy in price forecasting. This structured approach balanced interpretability with performance, and it aligned with standard time series modeling practices."
* **Task**:  
  "As we prepared to submit the work to a conference, my advisor proposed a significant shift in direction: to redesign the process by using large language models (LLMs) directly for price prediction. His idea was to leverage LLMs’ ability to process raw text and generate forecasts through prompt engineering, bypassing the sentiment scoring and manual feature engineering stages. While I was initially skeptical, I recognized the potential and the importance of being adaptable, especially with the deadline approaching."
* **Action**:  
  "I re-designed the pipeline to incorporate this new approach. I developed a process where relevant economic and policy texts were fed into an LLM using carefully tuned prompts, allowing it to directly predict market direction. To ensure reliability, I implemented a prompt refinement loop and added sanity checks on the output. After delivering the LLM-based version, I revisited my original sentiment-enhanced LSTM and redesigned it to integrate LLM outputs as additional signals, creating a hybrid system that combined the strengths of both approaches."
* **Result**:  
  "The redesigned pipeline significantly improved the model’s directional accuracy and versatility. Our final hybrid system outperformed the initial LSTM-only setup and demonstrated the complementary power of structured and unstructured data. We submitted the project to the conference successfully, and I gained valuable insights into how process redesign can unlock new levels of performance. It also taught me the value of challenging assumptions and integrating new technologies thoughtfully into existing frameworks."

**Tell me about a time when you had a plan but ran into some obstacles. What did you do about it?**

LSTM 效果不好，晚一步向右shift

**Situation**:  
" In my carbon credit prediction project, I originally designed a pipeline that used sentiment scores extracted from economic and policy news to enhance an LSTM model. This approach was based on structured time series modeling and aimed to improve directional price forecasting while maintaining interpretability. I had a clear plan and timeline in place, and I was confident in the method."

**Task**:  
" However, as we approached our conference submission deadline, my advisor suggested a major change: instead of relying on sentiment scores and structured inputs, he wanted to use large language models (LLMs) directly to process raw news text and predict prices through prompt engineering. This was a significant shift from my original plan and introduced new complexity under tight time constraints."

**Action**:  
" Although I had reservations, I recognized the importance of staying adaptable. I shifted focus and re-designed the pipeline to incorporate the LLM approach. I developed a system that could extract relevant news articles, apply carefully engineered prompts, and produce predictions. I also implemented sanity checks and a feedback loop to refine prompt performance. Once that system was stable, I revisited my original LSTM pipeline and designed a hybrid model that used both the LLM predictions and sentiment scores as input signals."

**Result**:  
" The obstacle turned into an opportunity. The final hybrid model outperformed the original version, combining the interpretability of the LSTM with the context awareness of the LLM. We submitted the project on time, and it received positive attention for its novelty. This experience taught me how to handle last-minute changes constructively and the value of blending different approaches when facing unexpected challenges."

* **What is the most innovative idea you've ever had?**

Same as last example. AI agent!

**Earn Trust**

* [**How do you earn trust with a team?**](https://youtu.be/MAfGb-AYx6I)
* Kick off, 向同事了解detailed requirement，keep everyone updating，写了每个函数的测试（如果代码break），document

**Situation**:

During my internship at Chevron, I was assigned a new project that hadn’t been done before, and I didn’t know many team members at the start. The project involved building a new digital pipeline, and since it required collaboration across multiple teams, gaining trust quickly was essential to make progress.

**Task**:

My goal was not only to get the project off the ground, but also to build credibility and make sure others felt comfortable working with me—especially since the success of my work depended on integration with other components built by different people in the team.

**Action**:

To earn the team’s trust, I started by learning the detailed requirements of the broader project and regularly communicating with relevant team members. I made sure to keep everyone updated on my progress, as well as any technical blockers I encountered. I also documented my work clearly and thoroughly so that others could easily understand what I was doing, even if they joined later or weren’t deeply familiar with my part. Toward the end, I provided test functions and verification scripts for each module I built, making it easy for others to validate my work when merging into the main codebase.

**Result**:

As a result, the team became more open and collaborative. My transparency helped uncover potential integration issues early, and my documentation reduced ramp-up time for others working on related components. We delivered the project on time, and several teammates later told me they appreciated how easy it was to work with me. That experience showed me how consistent communication, technical ownership, and proactive support can build strong trust in a team—even within a short timeframe.

* **Tell me a piece of difficult feedback you received and how you handled it**

Affiliate meeting example

* **A co-worker constantly arrives late to a recurring meeting. What would you do?**

**Situation**:

In a previous team project, we held weekly meetings to coordinate progress and share updates. One of my teammates consistently arrived late, which disrupted our flow and sometimes required us to repeat information, affecting the group's overall productivity.

**Task:**

I wanted to address the issue in a respectful and constructive way that would encourage punctuality without creating tension or discomfort.

**Action**:

I decided to have a private, one-on-one conversation with him. I mentioned that I had noticed he often arrived late and asked if he was facing any scheduling issues. He appreciated that I approached the topic considerately and shared that they had back-to-back meetings that made it difficult to join on time. We discussed possible solutions, and I offered to raise the idea of shifting our team meeting by a few minutes to accommodate. In addition, I started sending a friendly reminder email to the team 15 minutes before each meeting to help everyone stay on track.

**Result**:

After we adjusted the meeting time, the teammate began showing up consistently, and our meetings ran more smoothly. The team appreciated the proactive communication and small process change. This experience reinforced how important it is to approach problems with empathy and work toward solutions that support the whole group."

**Insist on the Highest Standards**

* **Tell me about the most successful project you've done**

AI agent project example

* **Tell me about a project that you wish you had done better and how you would do it differently today**

不想只做carbon market，包括其他的market extension

**Situation:**

One of the most ambitious and technically challenging projects I worked on was a carbon credit price prediction model. The goal was to forecast price direction by combining time series data with unstructured data from economic news and policy documents. We used both time series models and large language models (LLMs) to improve predictive performance within the carbon market specifically.

**Task:**

While the project achieved strong results—over 80% directional accuracy and promising feedback from reviewers—I’ve since realized that the scope was more limited than it could have been. We focused entirely on the carbon credit market, but this market is highly influenced by broader commodity trends, global financial conditions, and policy shifts in adjacent domains.

**Action:**

Looking back, I wish I had expanded the project to include related financial markets, such as energy commodities and carbon-intensive sector indices, to provide more context to the model. I also could have applied multi-task learning techniques to leverage shared signals between markets. Today, I would design the system with more modularity, allowing the model to consume cross-market data and apply adaptive learning strategies. Additionally, I’d invest more time in building a broader evaluation framework to better understand generalizability.

**Result:**

Even though the project was successful within its original scope, I believe a broader market-aware approach would have increased both the accuracy and practical utility of the model. This experience taught me the importance of thinking beyond the immediate domain—especially in complex, interconnected markets—and it has influenced how I scope and design predictive systems in my current work.

* **Tell me a time that a goal was hard to achieve. What did you learn from that?**

Same as most challenging project.

**What I learned from this experience is the importance of thinking beyond narrow problem definitions.** While I was focused on building a strong model for the carbon market, I realized later that markets don’t exist in isolation. Incorporating broader context—like related commodities or macroeconomic indicators—can significantly enhance model relevance and accuracy.

I also learned to think more strategically about **scalability and generalization**, not just model performance in a fixed domain. This has changed how I approach research and system design—I now put more emphasis on flexibility, extensibility, and cross-domain signals from the beginning of a project.

**Bias for Action**

* [**Tell me about a time you had to make an urgent decision without data**](https://youtu.be/K6dmuICZGCg?t=74)

**Situation:** While working on my carbon credit prediction project, I wanted to explore the use of large language models (LLMs) to enhance market direction forecasting. At the time, there were virtually no existing studies applying LLMs to this market, and no clear benchmarks or prior results to rely on. I was also under a tight deadline to complete the project for a conference submission, so I had to move quickly.

**Task:**

I had to decide whether to invest significant time and resources into developing an LLM-based pipeline, despite not having concrete evidence or prior data showing it would work in this context. The alternative was to stick with more traditional, proven time series methods, but I believed there was hidden value in unstructured policy and news data.

**Action:**

Given the lack of historical data or examples, I made a judgment call based on intuition and experience. I decided to move forward with the LLM approach but scoped the work carefully to minimize risk. I prioritized a lightweight pipeline—summarizing articles, engineering simple prompts, and running small-scale evaluations to test viability quickly. I also built in fallback options using LSTM-only models in case the LLM direction didn’t pan out.

**Result:**

The gamble paid off. The LLM-based approach significantly improved directional accuracy when combined with traditional models and added qualitative insights through natural-language outputs. The hybrid model was completed on time and accepted for a conference. This experience taught me how to make fast, calculated decisions when data is sparse, and how to manage risk while pursuing innovation.

* **Tell me about a time when you found an opportunity that no one else saw**

Market prediction and analysis; no one in our group have done this previously; xxx

* **Situation**: While exploring topics for a research project, I became interested in the carbon credit market—a rapidly evolving space where accurate price prediction could be very impactful. I noticed that while many researchers were applying standard time series models to financial markets, very few—if any—had explored applying large language models (LLMs) to the carbon market specifically.
* **Task**: My goal was to identify whether unstructured data—such as economic news, environmental policy updates, and regulatory announcements—could be used to improve carbon price predictions using LLMs, even though this was a completely novel and untested area.
* **Action**: I began by building a data pipeline that collected and filtered news articles relevant to the carbon credit space. I then designed prompts for LLMs to interpret these articles and predict market direction or summarize macro signals. I also explored hybrid architectures, combining the LLM outputs with traditional models like LSTM to ground predictions in both quantitative and contextual data. Throughout the process, I had to experiment with prompt engineering, fine-tuning workflows, and summarization techniques to make the LLM application scalable and efficient.
* **Result**: This work opened up a completely new research direction. The hybrid model I built achieved over 80% directional accuracy and produced interpretable summaries that could help market participants. Our approach was novel enough to be accepted for conference submission, and it has since sparked interest from both academic and industry collaborators. The experience taught me the value of being proactive in identifying gaps in the field and applying emerging tools creatively—even in areas where no clear precedent exists.

**Dive deep**

* [**Tell me about a project in which you had to deep dive into analysis**](https://youtu.be/K6dmuICZGCg?t=471)

**Fine tune BERT to fit on to multi-tasks.**

**Action: explored different fine tune strategies**

**Results: achieve very high score and learned experience in fine-tuning**

* **Tell me about the most complex problem you have worked on**

**Use carbon market**

* **Tell me about a time when you used a lot of data in a short period of time**

**Situation**: In my carbon credit prediction project, I used large language models (LLMs) to analyze news articles and extract insights to improve price direction forecasting. Each article was long and unstructured, and the volume of data was substantial. Running full-length articles through an LLM was slow and costly—often leading to long wait times between prompt submissions and responses.

**Task**: I was working against a tight deadline to submit the project to a conference, so I needed to process a large amount of text data quickly while maintaining high-quality inputs for the model. The challenge was finding a way to work efficiently without sacrificing the effectiveness of the LLM-generated insights.

**Action**: To overcome this, I explored several optimization strategies. First, I built a parallel processing pipeline to submit prompts concurrently across multiple threads. I also restructured the prompt design by summarizing each article before feeding it to the LLM—this significantly reduced input length while preserving key information. Additionally, I implemented a news filtering step to prioritize high-impact articles based on relevance scores, reducing the number of inputs the LLM needed to handle.

**Result**: These optimizations dramatically improved the speed of my workflow and allowed me to process the full corpus of data within the limited time. I was able to complete the project on schedule and achieve strong predictive performance for the conference submission. The experience taught me how to balance scale and speed when working with large language models and large datasets under real-world constraints.