Unit 3: Attending a job interview

| **Lead in** | *""If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask what seat! Just get on." Sheryl Sandberg* |

1) Watch the video and answer the questions below:

1. What key elements should you include when answering the question, "Tell me about yourself"?
2. How can researching the company help when answering the question, "Why do you want this job?"
3. What is a mistake to avoid when answering, "Why do you want this job?"
4. According to the speaker, what are some examples of strengths an interviewer might appreciate?

2) Job Interview Advice

Look at the list below. Do you think these are good or bad things to say in an interview? Put 'G' (Good) or 'B' (Bad) next to each sentence.

1. I'm looking for new challenges.
2. I'm really nervous.
3. How much will I earn?
4. In the short term, I want to develop my skills and gain more experience in sales.
5. My weakness is that I work too hard.
6. I really need this job!
7. I work pretty well under pressure. I find it very motivating.
8. My current boss is horrible.
9. No, I don't have any questions for you.
10. I love the idea of free snacks on Fridays!

3) Reading

Now complete the text below with statements from Task 2.

Never Say These Things in a Job Interview

Here are 7 things you should never say in a job interview:

1. _____

If you don't know your potential salary, you shouldn't ask about it too early in the interview. If you do this, the interviewer will think you're only interested in money and nothing else. Employers want people who are a good match for the position that they're offering. Salary negotiations should wait till the end of the interview.

2. _____

Companies don't want to hire someone who doesn't have any confidence. So, it's not always good to be honest. If you're nervous, you should try not to show it.

3. _____

If the interviewer asks about your weaknesses, you shouldn't reply with a standard response that sounds like a hidden strength. Experienced interviewers know this trick. Instead, tell the employer about a real weakness, but one that isn't so important for the job.

4. _____

Don't mention how much you like some of the company's benefits, such as free snacks. The interviewer will think that you don't care about the success of the company.

5. _____

Try not to show that you're desperate for the job. Desperation is a sign of weakness.

6. _____

Never criticize a former boss or company. It's not classy, and it'll make you sound negative.

7. _____

When the interviewer asks if you have any questions, don't say "no." This makes you look unprepared for the interview or not interested in the job or company.

4) Talking Point

Do you agree with the pieces of advice in the article?

5) The Perfect Candidate Presentation (Why should we hire you?)

Imagine you're interviewing for the **Software Engineer - AI & Machine Learning** role (more details on the job vacancy are found in appendix 1).

- In 2-3 minutes, highlight:

    - **Interest in the Role**: Why you're excited about working in AI and machine learning at Innovatech Solutions.

    - **Relevant Experience**: Describe specific projects, technical skills, or achievements that make you a strong fit.

    - **Strengths and Goals**: Mention a strength that aligns with the job requirements (e.g., adaptability, problem-solving) and your goal to grow with the company.

- Practice being clear, confident, and concise.

Feedback

- After each presentation, the audience provides constructive feedback, noting:

    - **Relevance**: How well did the presentation align with the role's requirements?

    - **Confidence**: Did the candidate seem authentic and prepared?

    - **Specificity**: Were examples concrete and easy to understand?

6) Interview Questions

Look at the typical interview questions below. Listen to the dialogue and check the ones that you hear.

- How would you describe yourself?

- Could you tell me who you work for at the moment?

- How long have you been working for...?

- Why do you want to work for this company?

- Why are you leaving your job?

- What can you offer our company?

- You know this job requires a lot of travel. Is that a problem for you?

- Do you have any experience in...?

- What are your goals for the future?

- What is your greatest weakness?

- How do you cope with pressure?
- What are your salary requirements?

7) Understanding

Listen again and choose the best answer for each question below:

1. How long has Kate been working for KP Lewis?
   a. 3 years   b. 4 years   c. 8 years

2. How long has she been working in the accounting department?
   a. 3 months   b. 4 months   c. 8 months

3. Why is she leaving her job?
   a. She is not well-paid.
   b. She can't use all her skills.
   c. Her boss is horrible.

4. Is traveling a problem for her?
   a. yes   b. no   c. maybe

5. Why was she successful as a sales representative for a language school?
   a. The school increased its profit.
   b. The school sold more books.
   c. The school increased registrations.

6. What are her short-term goals for the future?
   a. She wants to buy a house.
   b. She wants to develop her sales skills.
   c. She wants to become a manager.

7. What are her long-term goals?
   a. She wants to obtain a high position in a company.
   b. She wants to start her own business.
   c. She wants to work for a school.

8. What is her greatest weakness?
   a. She works too hard.
   b. She's a perfectionist.
   c. She makes appointments at the last minute.

9. What motivates her to focus on her work?
   a. teamwork   b. pressure   c. a good salary

8) Activity B: Group Interview

In small groups of four, conduct mock interviews for the Software Engineer - AI & Machine Learning role. Form three students as interviewers and one as the interviewee then switch roles. Use questions and expressions from this lesson, along with any additional ones you think are relevant (examples are found in appendix 2). After each interview, rotate roles so everyone has a chance to be both an interviewer and an interviewee. Following the interviews, discuss collectively whether you would hire each interviewee and provide reasons for your decisions.

Job Vacancy: Software Engineer - AI & Machine Learning Focus

Company: Innovatech Solutions

Location: Remote or Onsite (San Francisco, CA)

Job Type: Full-time

About Us:
Innovatech Solutions is a forward-thinking tech company specializing in AI-driven solutions to transform data into meaningful insights. Our team of innovative thinkers and technical experts pushes the boundaries of what's possible, developing software that improves the efficiency and scalability of various industries. We're looking for a talented Software Engineer to join our team and help us build the future of AI technology.

Position Overview

As a **Software Engineer** at Innovatech Solutions, you will work within our AI & Machine Learning team to develop and optimize machine learning models and algorithms, integrate them into scalable systems, and contribute to cutting-edge projects. This role requires strong problem-solving abilities, a solid foundation in machine learning principles, and a team-oriented mindset.

Key Responsibilities

- Design, develop, and deploy machine learning models and algorithms to solve real-world challenges.

- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to integrate machine learning solutions into production environments.

- Work with large datasets to preprocess, clean, and optimize data for model training and testing.

- Debug, test, and refine code to ensure software quality, functionality, and scalability.

- Research and implement state-of-the-art techniques in AI and machine learning.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Computer Science, Engineering, or a related field.

- Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, Java, or C++.

- Hands-on experience with machine learning frameworks like TensorFlow, PyTorch, or Scikit-Learn.

- Strong foundation in algorithms, data structures, and software development best practices.

- Knowledge of database management and familiarity with cloud platforms (AWS, Google Cloud, or Azure).

- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively within a team.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience deploying machine learning models in production environments.

- Knowledge of NLP, computer vision, or deep learning.

- Understanding of DevOps practices for CI/CD (Continuous Integration and Continuous Deployment).

Why Join Us?

- Opportunity to work on high-impact AI projects with a talented, driven team.

- Competitive salary and benefits, including flexible work options.

- Room for growth and professional development in an innovation-focused environment.

How to Apply

If you are passionate about AI, have strong coding skills, and are excited to work on challenging projects, we'd love to meet you! Submit your resume, cover letter, and a portfolio of relevant projects to careers@innovatechsolutions.com.

Job Interview questions template

1. Tell me about yourself. Describe your personality.

2. What are your strengths? Best skills?

3. What is your major weakness?

4. What are your career goals? Future plans?

5. What things are most important to you in a work situation?

6. What would be your dream job? Why?

7. What do you think, is the worst job in the world?

8. Would you describe yourself as a workaholic?

9. Where do you see yourself being in five years? Ten years?

10. When you were a child, what job did you want to have when you were older? Why?

11. What jobs in your country are considered to be good jobs? Why?

12. If you had a choice, would you prefer to work alone or as part of a team? Why?

14. What are your hobbies?

15. What salary are you expecting?