What to say vs what NOT to say in a Data Analyst Interview

General Guidelines

1. Don't talk bad about your previous employer
2. Stay positive
3. Talk about the skills you DO have – not the skills you DON'T have
4. Be honest (or at least don't exaggerate too much)
5. Know your selling points and highlight them
6. Be confident
7. Be thankful

1.

"My last job was terrible. They overworked and underappreciated me."

VS

"I really enjoyed the challenge and pace of my last job, but I'm looking for more responsibility."

Reason: It's hard to look good talking negative about your current or former employer. They may think you will talk about their company like that in the future.

2.

"I think you've covered everything. I don't have any questions."

VS

"I do have a few questions – What is…."

Reason: Asking questions shows interest and initiative. It also engages them in conversation and makes them talk to you instead of the other way around.

3.

"What does your company do?"

VS

"I really like the work that your company does. I saw that you have a product that does… it sounds fascinating"

Reason: Showing that you did your research on the company shows you're prepared and motivated.

4.

"I know I don't have a lot of experience, but I'll work really hard."

VS

"I think my experience with SQL will be very useful for this position"

Reason: Stay positive and highlight your strengths. Show them why they should hire you instead of telling them why they shouldn't.

5.

"I really need this job – I'm going through a tough time right now"

VS

"I'm looking for a new opportunity to…"

Reason: They want to choose you – not feel like they have to choose you. Although it may be true it does not look good.

Questions

1. What's your greatest weakness?

"I'm a perfectionist" "I work too hard" "I really don't have any weaknesses"

VS

"I can be impatient when working in a group sometimes. I am very self-sufficient and I don't like to rely on others to complete my work on time. I know I need to work on this and have been taking on more leadership roles and tasks…"

Reason: This question shows how self-aware you are. The best way to answer is to answer with a genuine weakness, but say how you're working to improve that weakness.

2. Tell us about yourself.

"Well I'm recently divorced, I enjoy backpacking and fishing… I used to work as a Bus driver… I have 5 dogs…"

VS

"Currently, I work as a Data Analyst at a Healthcare Analytics company. I've been using SSMS and Azure a lot for… Before I took that role I graduated with a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering… I'm very passionate about the work I do…"

Reason: Although I'm sure they'd love to know all 5 of your dogs names and personalities – they really want to hear about you as an employee. Talk about your current employment, some of your main skills as an employee, and don't be afraid to show some passion.

3. Why are you looking to leave your current role?

"My current boss is terrible and my coworkers are so lazy. I'm really doing most of the work around there."

VS

"I'm looking for a new opportunity at a larger company…" "I want to take on more responsibility…."

Reason: Interviewers want to hear that you're looking to grow and take on more responsibility and learn new skills.

4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

"Your job" "I want to work at Google" "I really don't know"

VS

"Over the next few years, I want to broaden and develop skills in data analytics. In five years, I will be looking for opportunities to expand my responsibilities within this role.

Reason: This is a trick question. You aren't a psychic. Be vague and talk about growing and continuing at that company. Don't talk about a specific job or leaving that company.

5. What are your salary expectations?

"How much are you offering?" "What did the last person in this position make?" "20% more than your offer."

VS

Watch the next video on Negotiating Your Salary

Reason: You worked hard. Now make sure to get paid for it.