20 Most Common Interview Questions (With Answers) That Every Company Asks — And How to Answer Them

Interviews can be nerve-wracking, but one thing that can boost your confidence is preparation. Most companies — whether a startup or a multinational giant — ask a set of common interview questions to assess your personality, motivation, and problem-solving abilities. Below are **20 frequently asked questions** along with expert tips on how to answer them effectively.

✅ 1. Tell me about yourself.

How to Answer:
Craft a 1-minute elevator pitch highlighting your background, skills, and goals.

Example:
"I'm a Computer Science graduate with a passion for software development. I've worked on multiple projects using Java and React, and recently interned at XYZ, where I built a customer dashboard. I'm currently looking for a role where I can grow and contribute to impactful products."

✅ 2. Why do you want to work here?

How to Answer:
Show you've done research about the company and connect it with your goals.

Example:
"I admire your company's innovation in AI-driven solutions. The role aligns with my interest in machine learning, and I'm excited about the opportunity to work on projects that make a real difference."

✅ 3. What are your strengths?

How to Answer:
Pick 2-3 strengths relevant to the job, with examples.

Example:
"I'm a quick learner and a great team player. During college, I led a group project where we built an app in under two weeks and won first prize."

✅ 4. What is your biggest weakness?

How to Answer:
Mention a real weakness, but show how you're working to improve it.

Example:
"I used to struggle with public speaking, but I've joined a Toastmasters club and now I feel much more confident."

✅ 5. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

How to Answer:
Be ambitious but realistic, and align your goals with the company.

Example:
"I see myself growing into a leadership role, contributing to strategic decisions, and mentoring juniors in the team."

✅ 6. Why should we hire you?

How to Answer:
Summarize what sets you apart in terms of skills, culture fit, and motivation.

Example:
"I bring technical skills, adaptability, and enthusiasm to the table. I'm committed to learning and adding value to the team from day one."

✅ 7. Tell me about a time you faced a challenge and how you overcame it.

How to Answer:
 Use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result).

Example:
 "We faced a last-minute bug before project submission. I identified the cause, fixed the code, and we submitted on time. Our project scored highest in class."

✅ 8. Describe a time you worked in a team.

How to Answer:
 Show your collaboration and communication skills.

Example:
 "In our final year project, I coordinated between frontend and backend teams, ensuring smooth integration and timely delivery."

✅ 9. What motivates you?

How to Answer:
 Be honest, but align it with your work ethic or the job role.

Example:
 "I'm motivated by problem-solving. I love breaking down complex challenges and building effective solutions."

✅ 10. How do you handle pressure?

How to Answer:
 Show resilience and a positive mindset.

Example:
 "I stay calm, break tasks into small goals, and prioritize. During exams and projects, this helped me meet tight deadlines without panic."

✅ 11. What are your salary expectations?

How to Answer:
 Do market research and give a realistic range.

Example:
 "Based on my research and the role, I believe a range between ₹6–7 LPA would be fair. I'm open to discussion depending on overall compensation."

✅ 12. Why did you leave your last job/internship?

How to Answer:
 Be honest and focus on growth or better opportunities.

Example:
 "My internship was project-based and completed successfully. I'm now looking for a full-time role where I can continue learning and contribute long-term."

✅ 13. How do you prioritize tasks?

How to Answer:
 Explain your system (to-do lists, tools, etc.) and decision-making process.

Example:
 "I make a task list, categorize by urgency and impact, and focus on high-priority items first. Tools like Trello help me stay organized."

✅ 14. Tell me about a mistake you made and what you learned.

How to Answer:
 Own the mistake and highlight the lesson.

Example:
"I once missed a deadline due to poor time estimation. I've since started allocating buffer time for every task and improved my planning."

✅ 15. What are your hobbies or interests?

How to Answer:
Mention genuine hobbies, preferably ones that reflect soft skills.

Example:
"I enjoy writing tech blogs and reading about new frameworks. It helps me stay updated and improve my communication skills."

✅ 16. Are you open to relocation or remote work?

How to Answer:
Answer honestly but show flexibility if possible.

Example:
"Yes, I'm open to relocation or remote work depending on the role and opportunities available."

✅ 17. What do you know about our company?

How to Answer:
Mention the company's products, mission, or recent achievements.

Example:
"I know you're a market leader in fintech solutions, recently partnered with XYZ Bank, and are expanding into international markets."

✅ 18. Describe your ideal work environment.

How to Answer:
Align your preferences with the company culture.

Example:
 "I thrive in collaborative, growth-oriented environments where I can contribute ideas and continuously learn."

✅ 19. How do you stay updated with industry trends?

How to Answer:
 Mention specific sources or habits.

Example:
 "I follow tech newsletters, listen to podcasts like 'CodeNewbie', and stay active on platforms like GitHub and Stack Overflow."

✅ 20. Do you have any questions for us?

How to Answer:
 Always say yes! Ask thoughtful questions.

Example:
 "Yes, I'd love to know more about the team I'd be working with and what a typical day looks like in this role."

🔚 Final Tip:

Practice these answers aloud, personalize them based on your background, and keep them **short, relevant, and confident**. A great interview isn't about giving the "perfect" answer — it's about showing who you are and why you're a good fit.