

## Common interview questions

### Ice breaker / Small talk

There are several phrases with which you can break the ice and establish a friendly tone with the interviewer:

- "Thanks for inviting me to interview"
- "I'm pleased to meet you!"
- "Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today."
- "I'm good, thanks. I've been looking forward to this interview for a while, so I'm happy to be here."

### Questions with sample answers

Use these answers as a reference for you to solve job questions in English. The goal is not to memorize them and use your own expressions.

- **Tell me about yourself – Describe your role Nowadays – Which Languages/Technologies/frameworks do you use?**

Start by introducing yourself and give details about your career, skills and previous experience. Use your elevator pitch, talk specifically about your professional profile and how it relates to the position you are applying for.

- **Tell them who you are as a professional – Years of experience, projects and fields you have worked in the past – Your current job, responsibilities, teams, achievements**

"I like to think of myself as someone who is always looking for creative solutions. I'm a creative marketing graphic designer with 8 years of experience developing ideas, researching consumer habits, and visual creation, during the past few years I've been involved in various projects including branding for big and small companies, Media Arts inside Digital Strategies for a restaurant chain, working closely with a cross-functional team. I have also been a leader for a small group of designers as part of an international campaign when I was working for (mention the name of the company) and one of my greatest achievements has been to rebrand a whole logo for an important Spanish company, which has gotten very good feedback from the client. My goal is not only to impact with creative design but also to know how to sell a product and capture consumer's minds"

- **What is your greatest strength?**

"I consider myself a great communicator and negotiator. I think these two are my greatest strengths. I'm always trying to find possible solutions through good conversation. I'm someone who negotiates when it comes to working as a team member. I know for sure these two skills will be a good asset and fit for your team."

- **What are your weaknesses?**

"I would say that I'm not a patient person when working on projects that depend on others, but this has been an opportunity to improve my communication and negotiation skills. I started to be more proactive, asking more questions, and being more helpful so we can complete every task on time."

- **Why do you want to leave your current company?**

Avoid saying anything negative about your former workplace or boss. To answer one of the most common job interview questions in English, you can say the following:

"I am looking for new challenges".

"I am looking for a job that suits my abilities".

"I am looking for a job position where I can grow with the company".

"I have been working in the same role for more than a year, and I think I need to expand my knowledge and skills. I want to work for an international organization where I can get the chance to improve my professional background and personal growth. I see your company as a good fit for my profile, and you have an excellent place to work. You also have a great work culture, and I want to be part of such a fantastic team."

- **In your current (last) position, what features do (did) you like the most? The least?**

The most: "I enjoyed having to use my initiative. I have implemented and improved a number of the systems including the order processing system."

The least: "There was a lack of growth opportunities in such a small company. One of the reasons I am so interested in your company is that it is a much larger organization with formal career planning structures already in place."

- **What do you think of your boss?**

"He/she has a very kind personality, positive thinker / very professional and understandable."

- **How do you convert your Weaknesses into your Strengths?**

"My weakness might be that I can be a little impatient with people who don't meet their deadlines, although I'm learning that I get better results by being tactful and persistent in asking questions, rather than making demands."

- **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

"My long-term goals involve growing with a company where I can continue to learn, take on additional responsibilities, and contribute as much value as I can."

- **Why do you want to work for us?**

"I've done my research on what it's like working for [Company Name] and I've only been told and found great things about everything, like the corporate culture, career development opportunities and the work-life balance it provides."

- **What you can offer us no one else can?**

"I believe that my previous experience, problem solving attitude and people skills can make a difference. I am motivated, disciplined and focused and am willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

"I am a well rounded individual with a blend of skills. Past training and job experiences have allowed me to take on and complete projects and assignments of high importance and increasing difficulty while on time and under budget. And now, I want to be part of your team so I can contribute to the future development of the company."

- **What motivates you?**

"I feel comfortable meeting targets and deadlines. At the same time I always like to come up with creative ideas to improve something and get involved in new projects."

- **What do you find most attractive about this position? What seems least attractive about it?**

"I'm looking for a company I can grow my career with and it sounds like [Company Name] allows that."

"This is exactly what I do and what I want to keep doing."

- **What do you look for in this job?**

"It will enable me to utilize my skills and knowledge on different projects. I can make contributions and at the same time build upon my existing skills and experience by working in this role."

"This position is tailored to my competency as a challenge to keep me on toes since I have the skills outlined in the job description."

- **What do you think is the hardest part of working for people younger/older than you?**

"Usually inexperienced employees and interns are a lot more motivated, and that is an added value for any team of professionals involved in a project."

- **How do you prioritize and organize at work?**

"I like to set up my calendar with specific dates and times. I like to start with the most urgent and challenging tasks, and I leave the easiest ones for the end of the day."

"Me gusta organizar mi agenda con horas y fechas específicas. Prefiero empezar con lo más urgente y lo más difícil y dejar lo fácil para el final del día."

- **Why should we hire you?**

"I think you should hire me because of three main reasons. First, I have vast experience working as a Frontend developer inside the E-commerce Field. This experience has given me the opportunity to work with projects and clients around the globe, methodologies, and multi-cultural teams. Second, I'm a resilient person who adapts and learns fast, which helps in fast-paced environments such as yours. And Third, I am a problem solver, as I told you before, I'd like to think I'm a person that always comes up with creative solutions for problems"

- **Are you in other selection processes?**

"I am currently in an active job search but I do not have a firm offer from another company."

- **What are your salary expectations?**

"I am willing to negotiate the working conditions and salary that you can offer me. Taking into account the situation in the sector, I expect the gross salary to be between 1,500 and 1,800 Euros."

- **Are you a leader or a follower?**

"Given the fact that for the last three years I have worked as a department head, I would say the first option. However, when I started my career I did it as a subordinate, so I also adapt quite well to requests that come from above. Depending on the needs of the company, I will adapt to one profile or another."

- **How did you find out about this position?**

"I found this job offer through LinkedIn. I've always wanted to work with you, so I had a job alert ready."

- **Why have you been so long without work?**

"I have been for some time without having the opportunity to work. However, I have taken the opportunity to train myself in the use of computer programs and improve my level of English. In addition, I have kept up to date with the news of the sector."

## Other frequently asked questions

- What is your dream job?
- What was your biggest failure?
- Tell me about a time you disagreed with someone
- How do you handle pressure?
- Tell me about a time you had to handle pressure
- What would a coworker say about you?
- What are some of your leadership experiences?
- Tell me about an accomplishment you are most proud of
- How did you hear about this position?
- What are your career goals?
- What would you look to accomplish in the first 30 days/60 days/90 days on the job?
- Have you done any volunteer work?
- What would you do if you won the lottery?
- Why did you choose your career?
- What is most important to you in a job?
- Have you ever had trouble with a boss? How did you handle it?
- Why were you fired?
- Are you a risk-taker?
- How soon can you start work?
- Have you worked in a multicultural environment before?
- How do you relate to people from diverse cultures?
- Are you willing to travel?
- What languages do you speak?
- Why did you decide to become a software engineer?
- What programming languages do you prefer?
- What's important when checking a team member's code?
- What project management tools have you used?
- Talk about a project you completed successfully
- What are you looking for in this job?
- Why should we hire you?
- Talk about some mistakes you learned from
- How do you come up with estimates?
- What are you working on right now?
- How do you assure software quality?
- Do you enjoy working with a team or alone?
- What are your career goals?
- When writing your own database server, what should you consider?

- How do you keep your skills sharp and up to date?

## **End of the meeting**

By the end of the interview, use expressions such as:

- “Thanks for taking the time to meet me. I look forward to hearing from you soon”.
- “I really appreciate your time, it’s been a pleasure to meet you”.