



Tips on Job Interview

1. "Tell me a little about yourself."

The goal of an interview is to determine whether the candidate will be outstanding in the job, and that means evaluating the skills and attitude required for that job.

If you're the candidate, talk about why you took certain jobs. Explain why you left. Explain why you chose a certain school. Share why you decided to go to grad school. Discuss why you took a year off and what you got out of the experience.

When you answer this question, connect the dots on your resume so the interviewer understands not just what you've done, but also *why*.

2. "What are your biggest weaknesses?"

Just pick a theoretical weakness and magically transform that flaw into strength in disguise! For example: "My biggest weakness is getting so absorbed in my work that I lose all track of time. I love what I'm doing I just can't think of anything else."

Alternately, choose any other weakness you have, but one you're working to improve. Share what you're doing to overcome that weakness.

3. "What are your biggest strengths?"

If you're a problem solver, don't just say that. Provide a few examples, pertinent to the opening, that *prove* you're a great problem solver. If you're an emotionally intelligent leader, provide a few examples that prove you know how to answer the unasked question.

In short, don't just claim to have certain attributes -- *prove* you have those attributes.

4. "Out of all the other candidates, why should we hire you?"

Since a candidate cannot compare himself with people, all he can do is describe his incredible passion, desire and commitment. Use it as a chance to highlight your skills and things you haven't been able to touch on.

5. "Why do you want *this* job?"

Before answering this question, ensure that you know about the company you are being interviewed at. Now go deeper. Talk about how you could contribute more in the given position of the company about how the position is a perfect fit for what you hope to accomplish both in the short and long-term.

6. "Why do you want to leave your current job?"

Don't bad-mouth your company. Instead, focus on the positives a move will bring. Talk about what you want to achieve. Talk about what you want to learn. Talk about ways you want to grow, about things you want to accomplish; explain how a move will be great for you *and* for your new company.

7. "What do you like to do outside of work?"

Many companies feel cultural fit is extremely important, and they use outside interests as a way to determine how you will fit into a team.

Focus on activities that indicate some sort of growth. Skills you're trying to learn, goals you're trying to accomplish

8. "A snail is at the bottom of a 30-foot well. Each day he climbs up three feet, but at night he slips back two feet. How many days will it take him to climb out of the well?"

The interviewer isn't necessarily looking for the right answer but instead a little insight into your reasoning abilities.

All you can do is talk through your logic as you try to solve the problem. Don't be afraid to laugh at yourself if you get it wrong -- sometimes the interviewer is merely trying to assess how you deal with failure.





