



Interview Practice Questions

The questions below are merely a sample of what you may encounter in an interview. Preparation takes practice, but don't feel pressure to write up and memorize answers to each one. Take a few from each category and begin to practice alone, with friends, and set up an appointment with us for a mock interview.

General Questions

- Walk me through your resume.
- Tell me about yourself.
- Why do you want to work in industry x? (Or: Why are you here? What brought you here?)
- Why do you think you would be successful in this industry?
- Why should we hire you?
- Describe your ideal job.
- What was your favorite class and why?
- If you had the opportunity to do one thing differently what would you change?
- What are 3 things you would like me to remember about you from this interview?
- What is one thing you want me to know that we haven't discussed and that is not on your resume?

Personal Goals and Accomplishments

- What are your strengths/weaknesses? (TIP: have 3 examples each. Consider something you are working on improving related to your working style).
- What is your proudest accomplishment?
- What are you passionate about?
- Which new goals have you established for yourself recently?
- What has been your most challenging experience?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
- Describe a failure. What did you learn from it?
- What is the hardest thing you have ever done?

Teamwork/Collaboration

- Describe a time when you had to influence another student/peer to cooperate with you. What did you say?
- Describe a situation where you were able to help out a peer or team member. How did you do it?
- Which bosses have you worked most effectively for? Why? Which bosses have been the hardest to work for?
- Describe an incident where you had a clash/disagreement with someone in your work/school.
- Give me an example of a time when you were able to work effectively with a person from a cultural background that was very different from yours.
- Have you ever been in a group with an uncooperative or unproductive person? How did you handle this?
- Tell us about a time you received constructive criticism from an instructor or boss?
- What do you do when someone else takes credit for your idea? (TIP: find a positive spin)

Communications

- What difficulties have you encountered in trying to communicate technical information?
- Describe a situation when you were able to use persuasion to convince someone to see things your way.
- Give me an example of an argument, which you lost, and what you did about it.

Practical Learning

- Describe a course in which you felt challenged.
- Describe a time when you had difficulty learning something complex.



Interview Practice Questions

- Tell me about a time when you were able to treat a negative experience as a learning opportunity?
- Give me an example of a time when you first resisted a change at work and then accepted it.
- Describe how you've gone about learning a new technical skill.

Analysis/Problem Assessment (defining a problem)

- Have you ever recognized a problem before your boss or others in your department/team?
- Describe the most difficult trouble-shooting challenge you have had.
- Describe the biggest problems you have faced in the recent past.
- Tell me about a difficult quantitative question that you've had to answer, and you presented your thoughts.

Judgment/Problem Solving (solving a problem)

- Which types of decisions do you tend to make rapidly, and which ones do you take more time on? Give some examples.
- Tell me about a decision you have made which was the wrong one, and what you did about it.
- Tell me about a time you faced an interpersonal conflict. Give me an example.

Initiative

- Have you held leadership roles in extracurricular activities? How did you lead? Give an example.
- Give an example of ways you have found to make your work easier.
- Describe a situation where you were able to make a difference (i.e., where something was accomplished that would not have been if you weren't there.)
- Give an example of doing more than is required in your current classes.
- Tell me about your most innovative project or assignment. What did you do that was resourceful? How did it turn out?
- Tell me about a project you initiated.
- What kind of leader are you?

Planning and Organizing/Work Management

- Tell me about a time when your course load was heaviest. How did you get all your work done?
- If you are balancing a part-time job/extra-curriculars with full-time school, how do you prioritize?
- We have all had occasions when we were working on something that just "slipped through the cracks." Can you give me an example of when this happened to you? Cause? Results?

Motivational Fit

- What are your standards of success in school? And, what have you done to meet these standards?
- What conditions are most frustrating to you?
- Have you ever worked on a project you didn't enjoy?
- Describe the last goal you set for yourself that you feel particularly proud of. What happened?
- Describe a time you anticipated potential problems and developed preventative measures.