



25 TYPICAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Because the job interview is dynamic and individualized, it is not possible to provide you with exact questions and answers that you might face in the process. However, listed below are some general tips, as well as some common questions that most candidates face at some point in a traditional job interview. The list is not exhaustive, only a general guide to get you started.

Tips To Think About:

1. Speak in specifics, not generalities. Think of the interview as a process of storytelling in which your role is the dissemination of specific information about your personal qualities and life experiences.
2. If you don't understand a question, simply ask, "Just so I understand, what you're asking is..." or paraphrase the question back to the interviewer.
3. Stress important skills that all employers are looking for including initiative, honesty, reliability, teamwork and communication skills. Use personal examples to reinforce these qualities.
4. Be honest at all times. Integrity is a highly valued quality in today's world.
5. Be yourself. Beyond the professional skills and education you bring to the interview, the process is a lot about whether your personality fits into the culture of the organization.

→ **HOT TIP:** Don't dress in anything other than your professional best, and avoid cologne or perfume; recruiters are often overwhelmed.

25 Questions to Expect in a Traditional Interview

1. Tell me a little about yourself.
2. Why do you want to work as a ___?
3. What are your greatest strengths? Development areas?
4. Why should we hire you rather than another candidate?
5. Why do you want to work for us?
6. What are your short- and long-term career goals?
7. What do you think you can bring to this company?
8. Do you consider yourself a team player?
9. If I were to call your most recent supervisor, what would he or she likely say about you?
10. Why did you choose to interview with our organization?
11. How does your college education or work experience relate to this position?
12. Describe your ideal job, your ideal supervisor.
13. What interests you most about this position? Least?
14. Tell me what you know about our organization.
15. Why did you choose this major?
16. If you were to start over, what would you change about your education?
17. Are you interested in pursuing a more advanced degree? What area?
18. Tell me about three accomplishments that you are most proud of today.
19. Tell about a failure you have experienced in your life. What did you learn?
20. What do you see yourself doing in five to 10 years?
21. Who or what in your life would you say has influenced you the most with regard to your career objective?
22. What professional groups are you a member of, and how active have you been?
23. What traits or qualities do you have that you feel could be strengthened or improved?
24. With what kind of people do you find it most difficult to work? What do you do to improve the situation?
25. What appeals to you about this position?