

# Common interview questions

Helpful hints to use when answering interview questions:

- Use complete sentences and answer the entire question
- Responses should be professional, rather than casual or personal
- To answer questions requiring a situation or example, (1) describe the specific situation you were involved in, (2) explain your actions, and (3) state the outcome/s.
- Try to avoid yes or no responses, filler words (uh, huh, okay, like), and negative comments or descriptions.

**Write down your thoughts and practice answering common interview questions.**

Tell me about yourself.

Why do you want to...

- work here?
- go to school here?
- get into this program?

What are your greatest strengths?

What are your weaknesses?

What was the last good book you read?

Tell me about a time when...

- you overcame an obstacle.
- resolved a conflict.
- showed leadership.

Why do you think you are a good fit for this position/college/program?

Where do you see yourself in 5/10 years?

What has been your greatest achievement?

How would a previous supervisor or teacher describe you?

What are your professional goals? What are your educational goals?

I see \_\_\_\_\_ on your resume. Tell me more about that. What were your day to day responsibilities?

I see you don't have much professional work experience on your resume. What skills do you have that will translate well to the work environment?

Give me an example of a time you had to think outside the box.

Give me an example of how you manage competing priorities.

What motivates you?

Who inspires you?

Give me an example of a time you went above and beyond.

Why should I hire you? What makes you better than other candidates?

What is your availability?



## Examples of Unusual Interview Questions

Why would companies ask questions like this? What are they looking for in your response?

“If you could throw a parade of any caliber through the office what type of parade would it be?” (Zappos)

“If you were on an island and could only bring 3 things, what would you bring?” (Yahoo)

“If you were a pizza deliveryman how would you benefit from scissors?” (Apple)

“Do you believe in Big Foot?” (Norwegian Cruise Lines)

“What was the last gift you gave someone?” (Gallup)

“You’re a new addition to the crayon box. What color would you be and why?” (Urban Outfitters)

“Are you more of a hunter or a gatherer?” (Dell)