

Interview Questions Tips

We all know how difficult and nerve-wracking interviews can be, and what's worse than feeling unprepared for tricky questions? Here is a list of questions we thought would be great to share with you and show you how we would answer them:

How is your degree relevant?

- State your degree and the grade you received or are predicated to achieve (they should already know this from your CV, but this confirms it).
- Delve deeper: think about particular modules and the skills you gained when completing assignments, e.g. a presentation, a project or a particular placement may have given you relevant skills for the role you're applying for.
- Confirm that your skills can be transferred to the role, and if your degree is directly relevant, talk about the specific knowledge you have learnt and how it relates to the company.

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

- Choose strengths that are relevant to the position.
- For example, if the role involves lots of numerical analysis, highlight you are good with numbers and have good attention to detail before backing this up with an example.
- Think of something you were weak at, but you have since acknowledged and improved; don't mention skills essential for the role as this might undermine your qualifications.

Why should we hire you?

- Highlight your relevant and transferable skills, but try not to repeat previous answers.
- For example, 'my communication skills and confidence will help me as I will be able to take control of situations and have conversations with clients'.

Where do you want to be in X amount of years?

- The dream is no doubt you'd like to be sat on your yacht in the Caribbean Sea, but in reality the employer wants to know that you aim to achieve the best you can in the position.
- The key is to research, study the job you're applying for in detail and try to relate it to that.
- For example, those starting as Account Executives or Juniors could say that they would like to be in an Account Management role and confidently hitting your targets in later years.

Why do you want to leave your current job?

- Give positive reasons for joining a company rather than negative reasons for leaving.
- Think about what the new company can offer that your current company can't, e.g. I'm looking for an organisation which can support my further study'.
- You can say you were looking for something more suitable to you and explain why this role is.
- If there is a valid reason, e.g. location, then explain!

You graduated three years ago, why are you applying for an internship now?

- This is major – make sure you explain gaps in employment, i.e. if you were travelling or working abroad, on your CV.
- If you have been working for a few years after you graduated, explain your intentions.
- For example, if you were looking for something different and thought this internship might be a great start.

What did you like least/most about your previous job?

- This can be an awkward question, but handle it professionally and don't shout about who you hated previously.
- For example, if you're going for a role where there is huge room for growth, explain how your last job was more stagnant and you felt you couldn't progress in the role (this also adds another reason why you want this job, hurray!).
- Be honest with what you liked the most.
- If you like your colleagues the most, you can say this and show your great team ethic and likeability.
- The question tests your suitability for the current role.
- If you say you loved being customer facing and you're applying for a customer facing role, then that's a box ticked.
- Do your research – don't say you hated being stuck in an office if you're going for an office-based role.

How would your Mum/previous boss/best friend describe you?

- These questions provide an insight into your personality and show how you react to different situations.
- Although it is sometimes embarrassing to praise yourself, you could use feedback from a performance review, examples of situations from your previous employment and how your boss described your contribution or talk about several positive traits with examples to illustrate them.

Questions to ask the Interviewer

Thinking of questions to ask the interviewer shows you are interested and want to know more. However, don't ask something you should already know, i.e. 'What does your company do?'

- How could I impress you within the first six months?
- What do you like most about your job and working here?
- What are the next steps in the interview process?
- What have past employees done to succeed in this position?
- What's one of the most interesting projects or opportunities that you've worked on here?