

Interview Questions: Examples

Employers usually ask a variety of interview questions. Below are examples of the types of interview questions you may be asked, why the question may be asked (?), and suggestions on how to answer it (💡). For more interview practice, use a job description to create questions the employer may ask to assess your qualifications. We also recommend you schedule a mock interview with the Career Services Office.

Personal Qualifications & Background

What are your top 3 strengths?

? *self-awareness & utilization of strengths*

💡 *Select top 3 that will be helpful in this job provide examples of utilization of those skills, and transition to how those strengths can be useful in this job*

What are your weaknesses?

? *self-awareness with focus on growth & improvement*

💡 *Discuss how you're working to improve a weakness or a weakness you have learned to work around*

Why did you choose to major in_____?

? *understanding interests & passions helps to understand if their job is fit for you & if you are a fit for them*

💡 *Select at least one element of the major that attracted you, give an example of how you've excelled in that area, and connect it back to the job*

What motivates you?

? *does your motivation align with company, do you have self-awareness?*

💡 *Be specific yet genuine, provide example that connects to job/company purpose/mission*

How do you define success?

? *to understand how goals influence work*

💡 *Tip: Share example of when you succeeded and how setting & following (& exceeding) goals aided in that success.*

Organization & Position

What do you feel will be the most challenging part of being a _____?

? *helps employers learn how you work through difficulties & challenges, problem-solving*

💡 *Do thorough research, focus on positives you bring, share how you will address the challenge*

What qualities do you possess that will help you be successful in this role?

? *awareness of skills & experiences needed to do the job*

💡 *Focus on 2-3 qualities that most qualify you and share specific examples to help articulate those skills.*

Tell me about a business related article or blog you've read lately.

? *Industry awareness, continual learner*

💡 *Research industry info & read up. Share what you read, what you learned, and how it connects to this job.*

How does our position fit your career goals?

? *can you articulate your career goals, have you researched the position and company?*

💡 *Be able to state your career goal, what you've done thus far, and how this position will help you.*

Focus on skills building experience you're looking forward to, while stating what you can do for the company.



Work Experience, School, & Team

How do you organize your schedule & tasks?

- ? *strong organization is sign of productivity & efficiency & using time wisely.*
- 💡 *Share your specific organizational tools, how they help you allocate time and resources for work to be done and provide an example of how being organized help you succeed in a project /task.*

What 2-3 things do you value in a _____ position?

- ? *do your values & goals align with the job and company*
- 💡 *Be mindful of your values, be genuine, and know how your values may be supported by company. Share work situation where your values are /were utilized.*

What is your dream job?

- ? *elicits ultimate interest & passion and assists company is seeing if you're a good fit for their job*
- 💡 *Discuss skills you'd use, values it supports, and connect dream job to job you're interviewing for*

What was the most enjoyable part of your undergraduate program?

- ? *provides info on interests, enthusiasm, and drive.*
- 💡 *Provide examples, focus on program more than people, connect to the job*

What would your peers say about you?

- ? *helps assess your personality, teamwork, self-awareness & how you'd fit within company culture*
- 💡 *Identify your strengths, share examples of using those strengths and make connections to the job*

What role do you typically take in a group project?

- ? *identifies understanding of strengths and how to maximize. Also helps assess leadership skills*
- 💡 *share example of group project and role you played, focus more on your role than on the actual project.*

What makes you a strong leader?

- ? *can you define leadership, what traits of leadership do you possess?*
- 💡 *State your leadership skills, share role model who embodied leadership, explain how you'd use your leadership skills on the job*

Behavioral Based: (refer to "Interview: STARK worksheet" for specific strategy)

Tell me about a time you demonstrated strong communication skills.

- ? *assess written and verbal skills as well as interpersonal skills*
- 💡 *Share specific example and emphasize communication skill more than actual situation.*

Tell me about a time you worked as part of a team.

- ? *Use of your strengths in a team, collaboration)*

Describe a situation in which you went above and beyond the call of duty to get a job done.

- ? *initiative, work-ethic,*
- 💡 *Demonstrate how doing more than asked helped the project / job / company*

Describe the most creative work-related project you have completed.

- ? *creativity, flexibility, innovation, risk-taking, "out-of-the-box" thinking*
- 💡 *Identify example to demonstrate innovation/creativity. Articulate how being creative impacted results.*



Give me an example of a problem you faced on the job and tell me how you solved it.

? *Decision making, critical thinking, problem solving*

💡 *Share specific problem and outline steps you took to resolve it, connect problem solving strategy to the job*

Tell me about an important goal you set and how you went about achieving it.

? *goal-setting leads to higher productivity and efficiency*

💡 *Share steps taken to create a specific goal and result*

Tell me about a time you made a mistake.

? *integrity, honesty, ability to take responsibility for your actions*

💡 *Own the mistake, explain it, share positives, and what you learned so it doesn't happen again*

Tell me about a challenge you faced and how you overcame it.

? *Persistence, critical thinking, problem-solving*

💡 *Be specific, share challenge similar to what you may face in this position, focus on the steps you utilized to overcome the challenge.*

Describe a time when you were faced with a stressful situation that demonstrated your coping skills.

? *Adaptability, flexibility*

💡 *Articulate briefly what made the situation stressful then how you resolved the situation*

Tell me about a time when you had too many things to do, and you were required to prioritize your tasks.

? *Organizational skills, ability to prioritize, ability to seek help, delegation*

💡 *Share a specific example that allows you to walk them through your prioritization strategy and options for resolution*

What is your typical way of dealing with conflict? Give me an example.

? *assess how you engage with differing opinions, mediation, patience,*

💡 *Demonstrate how you interacted with individuals in conflict, how you helped mediate, and outcome. Articulate what you learned*

Tell me about a difficult decision you've made in the last year.

? *problem-solving skills, perseverance, critical thinking, working under pressure*

💡 *focus on process of making a decision more than the actual decision*

Tell me about a situation in which you had to deal with a very upset customer or co-worker.

? *Flexibility, patience, conflict resolution*

💡 *Provide specific example that enables you to share your process for de-escalation and relationship building*

Source: [Indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing) | [thebalancecareer.com/top-interview](https://www.thebalancecareer.com/top-interview)



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