

What are the Most Popular Interview Questions?

When you are chosen for an interview, it can be **exciting** and **nerve wracking** at the same time. When your career progress depends on handling the interview with grace under pressure and with enthusiasm, it can be a bit daunting. Being prepared to handle whatever could come your way is a matter of understanding the common and not-so-common questions you could be asked.

If you thoroughly research the company and prepare responses to likely questions in advance then the interview process is not nearly as difficult as it may seem. *Knowledge is power.* The more you know about the company and what you have to offer, the easier the interview should be.

It's all about advance preparation.

Common Questions

The common questions that interviewers ask are normally designed to determine if you are a good fit for the company. A good fit means that you have the **skills** and **competences** necessary to do the job and the **attitude**, **personality**, and **personal characteristics** that make you compatible with the company's culture.

Following are some common questions often asked at interviews.

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What are your biggest successes and failures?
3. What would you like to be doing 5 years from now?
4. Why do you want to work here?
5. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
6. Give an example of a difficult situation you had to deal with and how you handled it.
7. Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?
8. What do you believe you can contribute to the position and the company?
9. Why did you choose to apply for this position?

As you prepare answers to the questions, it's important to remember that you want to focus on:

- Talents
- Abilities
- Skills
- Competencies
- Professionalism

Your answers should be job specific and informative. Also remember that you should never bad mouth a prior company, manager, coworkers or position. *It is a small world, you never know when you could be talking about someone that the interviewer knows!!*

Even when discussing your **weaknesses** the focus should be on what you learned from a particular situation and how you turned a weakness into a strength. Do not fail to use each answer as an opportunity to convince the prospective employer of your qualifications and suitability for the job.

Not So Common Questions

It is quite possible you could be asked to answer some odd or unusual questions. These are questions designed to catch you off-guard or to test how you are able to handle **unexpected questions** or **situations**. *For example, you might be asked what you would do with a million dollars or who you most admire in history.*

There are also interview questions called 'Behavioral' questions, these are asked to learn about your past behavior in certain situations. They are used to find out more about your thought processes and how you would handle various **scenarios** or **challenges**. Following are a few examples of these type of questions:

1. Describe a situation where you were in conflict with your supervisor and how you resolved the conflict.
2. Describe a problem you had to solve and how you went about coming up with a solution.
3. Have you ever worked on a dysfunctional team and how did you manage the situation?
4. Describe a situation where your creativity led to a company success?

Once again, no matter what the questions is, your response should reveal something important about you as a potential employee. *Focus on your main selling points!* Emphasize your qualifications. Give the interviewer some insight into your personality and ability to handle just about any situation that comes your way.

Regal Resumes has services that can help you prepare for an interview whether it is in-person or on the telephone. See our services section to learn more about how we can assist you in this process.