

## The 8 Most Common Interview Questions Explained

**Summary:** It may seem like a lot of interview questions are pointless, but when you understand the meaning behind why the questions are asked, you will be better prepared to answer them.



Have you ever wondered why you get asked certain questions in interviews? Most of those crazy random questions are a test that the interviewer is using to learn about your ability to think on the spot, be creative, and go with the flow. Here are some of the questions you may be asked during an interview with an explanation of why they are asked.

### 1. Tell me about yourself.

This pretty much always gets asked. Interviewers are looking to see if you answer honestly or if you fluff up your answer to what you think they want. The truth is, they want an answer that is confident and articulate.

- See [How to Answer the "Tell Me About Yourself" Interview Question](#) for more information.

### 2. What are your weaknesses?

This is another question that usually always gets asked. Be honest and thoughtful in how you answer it. Interviewers absolutely do not want to hear an answer like, "My weakness is working too hard." They do not want suck-ups that are not willing to be honest. Show how self-aware you are by admitting a weakness, but include how you are improving that weakness.



- See [How to Answer the Common Job Interview Question of "What is Your Greatest Weakness?"](#) for more information.

### 3. Where do you want to be in five years?

Hiring new employees is an expensive endeavor. Companies want to hire candidates that see themselves sticking around for the long haul. Having a clear plan for the future shows employers that you can set goals and want to progress within the company.

### 4. Why do you want to work here?

Do your homework and research the company before applying. Your cover letter should address aspects of the company that you are drawn to. The interview is a place to elaborate on what it is about the company that you like.

### 5. Why did you leave your past job?

Employers want to understand if you left your job on good or bad terms. Leaving a job on bad terms is an indicator of what they can expect if they hire you. Be honest, but you don't need to go into extreme detail. Explain that the company wasn't giving you opportunities to grow.

### 6. Do you have any questions?

This question will determine how well you have been paying attention, as well as how passionate you are about the position. Interviews say that this section of the interview can leave the biggest impression on them. Wow the interviewer by asking a good question or two that suggests that you have done your research into the company and position.

- See [How to Answer the "Do You Have Any Questions for Me?" Interview Question](#) for more information.

### 7. What would your co-workers say about you?

Your understanding of how others view you is a good lesson for the interviewer about how self-aware or self-obsessed you are. The kind of answers you give will indicate what kind of relationships you have with your co-workers.

### 8. What are your hobbies?

Do you have any hidden talents or side projects that you are working on? This question is a good time to tell the company what kind of person you are outside of work. Being an avid rock-climber or marathon runner will show that you like to set goals and push yourself.



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See the following articles for more information:

- [Top Job Interview Questions and Answers](#)
- [Top 10 Most Common Interview Questions and Advice](#)

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