

# Interview Question-and-Answer Samples

Here is a list of some typical interview questions and possible responses.

## 1. Can you tell me something about yourself?

This question is aimed at finding out what kind of person you are, not merely about your job skills. Mention your personal strengths, interests and abilities.

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

The interviewer wants to ensure that you'll be satisfied with the job and likely to stay. This question also demonstrates if you've researched the company. Prepare your answers and you'll be ready for this one. Mention as many positive features about the job, company or organization as you can.

## 3. Why did you leave your last job/want to leave your present job?

The interviewer is trying to determine whether you had previous work problems. Don't say anything negative about your previous/present company or supervisor. Here are some suggestions for answering this question:

- "I would like a career change."
- "I would like a job that suits my skills better."
- "I'm seeking more challenges in my work life."

## 4. How much were you absent from your last job (or how is your attendance at school?)

The interviewer wants to know about your dependability. Discuss your past attendance record and give assurance of your future reliability.

## 5. What are your greatest strengths/weaknesses?

The interviewer wants to get a sense of who you are and your self-image.

- Highlight your most positive attributes.
- Use examples to illustrate your positive qualities and how they apply to work.
- In discussing weaknesses, talk about things which you recognize and have taken steps to improve.
- Don't make general negative comments about yourself.

## 6. What five words would you say describe you best?

The interviewer wants to get a sense of who you are and your self-image. Select only positive aspects.

## 7. What was your last employer's opinion of you?

The interviewer is trying to determine whether you had previous work problems. Your best answer is to have an open letter of recommendation from your last employer, which you can summarize and show to the interviewer.

If you don't have a letter:

- List the positive things your employer would say about you.

## 8. What are your long-range goals?

The interviewer wants to ensure that the job will suit you. State your goals and demonstrate why the job is a good match by saying that:

- You like the organization.
- You hope to become a valuable employee.
- You believe the job will be an interesting challenge.
- You want to make an effective contribution to the organization.

## 9. Can you work under pressure or tight deadlines?

The interviewer is indicating that this job may be stressful.

- Talk about several examples where you met deadlines.
- Show how capable you were in rising to the occasion.
- Indicate that you didn't mind the stress and, if it was the case, even enjoyed it!

## 10. What do you think of working in a group?

The interviewer wants to get a sense of your ability to get along well with others:

- Discuss the advantages of working in a group.

## 11. What experience do you have that qualify you for this job?

- Your workplace skills.
- Your education/training in relation to the job, any relevant non-paid experience, and how quickly you have learned that type of work in the past.
- Experiences that demonstrate your ability to learn--to show that you will be able to quickly pick up the skills required.

*Source:* <http://www.worksearch.gc.ca/english/index.pl?tid=72#1>