



Interview Questions Deciphered

| The interview Question | What They're Really Asking | What to Say |
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| Tell me about yourself/How would you describe yourself? | Why are you here for the interview? | Give a short, professional synopsis that can include your education and related work experience. |
| Why did you choose your field of study? | ...and why didn't you choose another related field of study? | Try to be specific when answering the question and relate it to your school of choice, program of choice, and extra opportunities and activities (such as a co-op placement or volunteer experience) |
| What are your short and long-term career objectives? | Do you want to be doing this line of work 5 years from now? 10 years from now? | Be honest and be sure to showcase your ambition, talent, and interest in the company |
| What do you know about our company? | Why do you want to work for us and not our competitors? From your perspective, what sets us apart? | Research, research, research! Google the company beforehand to get a full snapshot of any achievements or difficulties they might be facing |
| What are your top 3 strengths? | What kind of worker are you? Do you need to have hard-set deadlines in order to perform? Do you need to be micromanaged? | Include your top 3 transferable skills that allow you to succeed even in difficult work situations |
| What is one of your weaknesses? | What should I (as your employer) be on the lookout for? | Re-frame your weakness into a strength while being honest in your answer |
| Do you require any accommodations? | Do I need to get anything organized before you start work so that you (as the employee) can perform to the best of your ability? | All the employer needs to know is what you need to be able to comfortably perform the essential requirements of the job. There is no need to give a medical history or even to disclose or discuss the disability. |
| What interested you in this position? | What other companies have you already interviewed with? What caught your eye? Why are we better than our competition? | Research the company website thoroughly beforehand so you can impress your interviewers with your knowledge of their business as well as their recent achievements |
| What did you like most/dislike most about your last position? | What was your last working environment like? Did you have difficulty getting along with past colleagues? | Showcase your transferable skills as well as your interpersonal skills |
| Why should we hire you? | Why are you better than the other candidates we've met already? | Use this last opportunity to summarize your key accomplishments and skills |