

## Interview Questions You May Be Asked

There are as many different possible interview questions as there are interviewers, so it helps to be ready for anything. Below is what employers are trying to learn, potential interview questions, and some tips.

### **THE BASICS** (expect to hear these again and again)

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- Why do you want this job?
- What's your ideal company?
- What attracted you to this company?
- Why should we hire you?
- Why did you leave your last position?
- What can you do for us that other candidates can't?
- What do you know about this industry?
- What do you know about our organization?
- What salary are you seeking?
- Do you have any questions for me?

### **Remember S-T-A-R:**

**When possible, tell the interviewer a story about the *Situation*, the *Task* required, the *Action* YOU took, and the positive *Result***

### **SHOW ME, DON'T TELL ME**

- What was the last project you headed up, and what was its outcome?
- Give me an example of a time that you felt you went above and beyond the call of duty at work.
- Can you describe a time when your work was criticized?
- When you've been on a team where someone was not pulling their own weight, how did you handle it?
- What is your greatest failure, and what did you learn from it?
- Give me an example of a time you did something wrong. How did you handle it?
- Tell me about a time where you had to deal with conflict on the job.
- Describe how you would handle a situation if you were required to finish multiple tasks by the end of the day, and there was no conceivable way that you could finish.

### **WHAT ARE YOU LIKE AS AN EMPLOYEE?**

- How would you describe your work style?
- What would be your ideal working environment?
- What do you look for in terms of organizational culture?
- What techniques and tools do you use to keep yourself organized?
- Are you more of a big-picture person or a detail-oriented person?
- Who was your favorite manager and why?
- What are three positive things your last boss would say about you?
- What negative thing would your last boss say about you?
- Who has impacted you most in your career and how?
- What are the qualities of a good leader? A bad leader?
- What do you think of your previous boss? (Hint: don't EVER talk badly about your former boss/job)





### **HOW WELL DEFINED ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?**

- Why did you attend NEIU?
- How did you choose your major?
- What's the most important thing you learned in school?
- How do you want to improve yourself in the next year?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?

### **WHAT ARE YOU LIKE AS A PERSON?**

#### **WILL YOU FIT IN?**

- What three character traits would your friends use to describe you?
- What's the last book you read/movie you saw/website you visited?
- What would you do if you won the lottery?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- List five words that describe your character.
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What is your greatest achievement outside of work?

### **HOW MUCH OF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR RESUME IS TRUE?**

- How much do you know about \_\_\_\_\_ (a skill listed on your resume)?
- ¿Cómo describiría usted sus habilidades españolas? (For example, if you've listed Spanish as a skill)
- Sell me this pencil (to someone who has sales experience).
- Tell me about this leadership experience – what did you do?

### **HOW CREATIVE ARE YOU?**

#### **HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO STRESS?**

- How many times do a clock's hands overlap in a day?
- How would you weigh an elephant without scales?
- Tell me 10 ways to use a pencil other than writing.
- If you were an [animal/ice cream flavor/cookie]; which one would you want to be?
- If you could choose one superhero power, what would it be and why?
- With your eyes closed, tell me step-by-step how to tie my shoes.

#### **Sources for potential answers to tricky interview questions:**

[www.rileyguide.com/interview.html](http://www.rileyguide.com/interview.html)  
[career-advice.monster.com](http://career-advice.monster.com)

Career Advising workshops and individual appointments

## **Want some help practicing before your interview?**

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