Improve interviews by preparing answers to common interview questions.

Get ready for interviews with common questions, questions to ask the employer, and illegal interview questions.

**Common interview questions**

* Tell me about yourself.
* Why are you interested in working for this company?
* Tell me about your education.
* Why have you chosen this particular field?
* Describe your best/worst boss.
* In a job, what interests you most/least?
* What is your major weakness?
* Give an example of how you solved a problem in the past.
* What are your strengths?
* How do others describe you?
* What do you consider your best accomplishment in your last job?
* Where do you see yourself in three years?
* Think about something you consider a failure in your life, and tell me why you think it happened.
* How do you think you will fit into this operation?
* If you were hired, what ideas/talents could you contribute to the position or our company?
* Give an example where you showed leadership and initiative.
* Give an example of when you were able to contribute to a team project.
* What have you done to develop or change in the last few years?
* Give an example of a time you had to work with someone who was angry/upset. How did you respond?
* Do you have any questions for me?

**Questions to ask the employer**

* What are the responsibilities and accountabilities of this position?
* Please describe an average day on this job.
* What aspects of this job would you like to see performed better?
* What are the key challenges or problems of this position?
* Where can I go from here, assuming that I meet/exceed the job responsibilities?
* How would you describe the ideal candidate?
* What are the employer's short- and long-range objectives?
* What are some outside influences that affect company growth?
* Where does the company excel? What are its limitations?
* When and how will I be evaluated?
* What are the performance standards?
* How would you describe the company culture?
* With whom would I be working?
* Who would be my supervisor?
* Who would I supervise?
* What is the department's environment like?
* When will you make the hiring decision?
* May I call you for the decision?

**Illegal questions – the employer cannot ask you…**

* What is or was your spouse's name or line of work?
* Have you ever filed a Workers' Compensation claim or been injured on the job?
* Do you have any physical conditions that would prevent you from performing the job?
* Have you ever been arrested?
* Do you have kids or want kids?
* What is your height/weight?
* Have you ever been hospitalized?
* If so, for what condition?
* Have you ever been treated by a psychiatrist or psychologist?
* If so, for what condition?
* How many days were you absent from work because of illness last year?
* Are you taking any prescribed drugs?
* Have you ever been treated for drug addiction or alcoholism?

Source: [Creative Job Search](https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/job-guide/), a publication of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.