

MOST DIFFICULT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

If you're currently looking for a job or have plans to change jobs soon, you know you must be prepared for the job interview. Not only does this include researching the company, but also being ready for whatever zingers the interviewer throws at you. Monster.com has identified the five most difficult questions you might be asked during a job interview, which is essentially a very high-stakes elimination game. Make sure you aren't the one who is eliminated!

THE TOP FIVE MOST DIFFICULT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What is your biggest weakness?

The interviewer wants you to hand him a valid reason to reject you. So don't do that! Instead, turn this negative question around so your confessed weakness can be perceived as a strength. EXAMPLE "I have a tendency to say yes and get overcommitted, but I am working hard to prioritize and set limits." No matter what question you are asked, make sure the interview stays focused on your strengths, and not your weaknesses.

2. What salary do you think you deserve?

Never state a number. This is a lose-lose proposition for you. If you throw out a figure, it could be far less than the company had planned to offer you. On the other hand, it could be so high, it's an excuse to show you the door. Always let the employer be the first to offer a salary range. Once you have that information, if you are asked for a salary expectation, give a number that is higher than the median of the range. Advice: Never talk salary in the first interview.

3. Why should I hire you?

Cite three or four examples from your resume that make you look outstanding. These examples should show that you are a hard worker, who will accomplish great things. Use your past performance as a predictor of your future performance.

4. What didn't you like about your last job?

This is a question aimed at discerning weaknesses, so don't fall for it. Instead of trash-talking the boss, complaining about the hours or grouching about the quantity of work, say you left because your responsibilities were not enough of a challenge.

5. Where do you see yourself in three to five years?

The worst answer? You have no clue. Instead, say you have spent time doing self-assessment to discern what you want from life and have determined you want to make a commitment to a career and build it at this company.