

Interview help

When applying for a job through Eurolink Employment we recommend that Job seekers are well prepared for their UK interview with your potential employer, we have compiled the most common questions your likely to be asked by the employer.

It's useful to rehearse how you are going to answer common interview questions. Even if these particular questions don't come up, rehearsing will help you talk fluently about yourself and your achievements.

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question is often used to start the interview off and let the interviewer hear you speak. Run through your employment history (or education if you are new to the job market) and finish up with what you've done most recently. You should show how your career has progressed. Make sure you focus on any experience relevant to the position you are applying for.

2. Why do you want to work for us?

The interviewer wants to know why you want to work for the company. Demonstrate that you have done plenty of homework and researched the company, then mention particular characteristics and explain why they are important to you. Never say have "I just needed a job" or "I want more money" "I don't know".

3. Why do you think you would be suited to this role?

This is a question about your experience, skills and personal qualities. Make sure the attributes you mention are relevant to the position, and don't use vague statements about your personality - instead use facts to back up what you're saying.

4. Why do you want to work in the UK?

The interviewer wants to know why you wish to work in the UK as well as, how long. How does your family feel about working and living in the UK? How long you intend to stay before leaving to go home. So be prepared with your answer.

5. Are you happy with your career so far?

The interviewer wants to know if you are a positive person. Your answer must always be "yes", but it doesn't hurt to add that you are keen to take your career to the next level.

6. What do you think your greatest achievement has been?

The interviewer wants to know if you are an achiever. Pick an achievement that is work-related and relatively recent. An example would be: "I increased my department sales by £20,000 per month and increase of 25%" or "I introduced new ways of working on the factory floor in turn saved 100 man-hours in lost production down time"

7. What is the most difficult situation you have had to face and how did you tackle it?

The interviewer wants to know what you consider difficult. To answer this outline a truly difficult situation that wasn't caused by you and explains how you successfully resolved it. Don't be negative or use language like "nightmare" to describe the situation. Instead make it sound like a challenge that ended with you rising to the occasion.

6. What motivates you?

The interviewer wants to know how self-aware you are and whether you will fit into the organization. Never say "money", unless perhaps the position is a commission-based sales role. Try to think what gets you fired up as an employee. This might be praise, personal satisfaction, public recognition or the respect of your colleagues. If you know what style of management is used at the company adjust your answer accordingly.

7. Why did you leave (or are looking to leave) your last job?

The interviewer wants to understand your motives. It's important to not be negative – don't say that your current boss is an idiot. Good answers include changes within the industry or organization caused by new technology or downsizing. Don't mention money.

Be careful if you say that you are looking for a bigger challenge or more responsibility as the interviewer may worry that you get bored easily.

8. What do you dislike about your present (or last) job?

Again, don't be too negative or draw attention to what might be perceived as personal weaknesses. For example, don't say: "My boss is badly organized and this makes my job far too stressful." Instead draw attention to a feature of the company – for example, that it is very large and bureaucratic. Don't mention something that might be an issue at the company you are hoping to work for.

9. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

This is another question about how self-aware you are. It's important to rehearse the answer to this, but make sure you take a few seconds before answering the question to show that you are not too conscious of what your weaknesses are.

Don't mention a flaw in your personality. Instead mention a gap in your knowledge or skills and then explain what you are doing to correct this. Pick an area that is not essential to the position you are applying for.

If you have an obvious weakness that the interviewer will be aware of, this is the perfect opportunity to counter the objection before it is raised.

State your weakness first, then give your strengths and why, by doing so the question is left answered on a positive note.

10. Where do you see yourself in five years time?

The interviewer may be looking for one of two answers: either that you see yourself in a more senior position or that you see yourself in a similar role. You need to work out which is more applicable to the company's culture.

11. What are your salary requirements?

Try to avoid talking about money until you are sure they want to hire you - that way you don't sound excessively interested in money and you will be in a stronger negotiating position.

Don't bring this subject up first. It is always better if the company mentions it first because they may name a much higher figure than you expect.

If you are asked it early on try saying that you haven't thought about it too much and you'd prefer to discuss this a little further down the line. If you are forced to give an answer suggest a range that is acceptable within the particular industry – but try to make the range as broad as possible.

12. Do you have any questions?

This is a typical way to draw and end to the interview. Ask a few carefully chosen questions that demonstrate that you have done extensive research on the company. If you have already asked these questions earlier in the interview it is acceptable to say something along the lines of: "No thanks, I think this discussion has given me a pretty good feel for what this job is all about."

If this question comes early in the interview ask questions that will help you provide perfect answers later on. Good examples include: "What is this company's style of management?" and "What are the biggest challenges facing this company?" "Why are you recruiting?" "Why is this a good company to work for?"