

Preparing for Tough Interviews/Questions

Prepare for your interviews. Once you have an opportunity to present yourself and your skills to a potential employer, you owe it to yourself to make it count. With preparation and practice, anyone can master tough interview questions. A quick Google search will yield lists of 20 or so commonly asked interview questions. Some provide answers or suggestions and others explain the psychology behind the question, allowing you to better understand to formulate a response based on your unique experience. Your task is to take advantage of the wealth of information at your fingertips. Analyze these interview questions, write a couple sentences outlining *your response* and edit the information (several times if necessary) until you are satisfied that you are expressing exactly what you want to convey about yourself and your capabilities. Once your answers are complete, practice delivering them—to the mirror, your family, colleagues, etc., and ask for feedback. If this is difficult for you, imagine how hard it will be to come up with great answers on the fly and under the pressure of an interview! By investing a few hours on your interview skills, you give yourself a fighting chance to make each and every interview count.

TOUGH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Tell me about yourself...
2. Why should I hire you?
3. What are your strengths?
4. What are your weaknesses?
5. Tell me about a project you are most proud of...
6. Tell me about a failure and what you learned from it...
7. How do you resolve conflicts?
8. What motivates you?
9. What are your short and long term goals?
10. Why do you want to work here?

Answering these and other typical interview questions will allow you to learn and grow as a person, in addition to preparing you to successfully interview. This path of self-discovery just may give your self-esteem the boost it needs to stay positive in a not-so-positive world. If you need some help and/or inspiration for your answers, there are numerous resources on the web. Google "Interview Questions and Answers" and go from there. Some of the better ones we've seen include several articles on CareerBuilder and a site called CollegeGrad.com.