

mock it till you ROCK IT

new mexico

Common Interview Questions

These are some of the most commonly asked questions that teens encounter during job interviews, along with insight on what these questions really mean and examples of good answers. Always answer interview questions honestly.

1. Why are you looking for a job?

What they want to know: Of course, everyone wants to make money at a job, but the reasons you should share with a potential employer should reflect your interest in the field, or in helping to develop your skill set.

Example answer: *My favorite hobby is baking for my family and friends. I'm hoping to gain restaurant experience in order to decide if I have what it takes to go to culinary school and become a pastry chef.*

2. Why are you interested in working for our company?

What they want to know: Employers ask this question to gauge your interest in the field, and to see if you have done your research. Make sure you check out the company's website at the very least and familiarize yourself with what the company does, what the work and the work culture are like, and what's important to them.

Example answer: *I am studying to become a LEEDS-certified architect at the University of ABC, and so I'd really like to get some hands-on experience at a leading green construction firm so that, when the time comes, I'll be able to collaborate well with construction managers, general contractors, and sub-contractors.*

3. How has school prepared you for working at our company?

What they want to know: This is your opportunity to talk about the skills you have gained in your education that will make you an ideal candidate for the position.

Example answer: *My favorite subjects in school are English and Art, and I hope to go into digital marketing. I'm good with computers and know my way around creative software – I've used Photoshop, InDesign, and Publisher for our school newspaper. I believe I have the communications and design skills you're looking for in your next marketing intern.*



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4. How would you describe your ability to work as a team member?

What they want to know: There have likely been many times you have worked as a team, on projects, in sports, or while volunteering. The interviewer will want to hear a specific example of a time you worked successfully in a team situation.

Example answer: *I'm very active in my high school band, and was chosen to serve as a band officer last year because of my enthusiasm for teamwork and my willingness to support my peers. I'm also first chair of our percussion section, and have led our section to repeated wins at state Solo and Ensemble competitions. I really enjoy coordinating practices and motivating our section members.*

5. What has been your most rewarding accomplishment?

What they want to know: You don't want to brag, but you should share an accomplishment that relates to some of the qualities or experiences required for the job you're interviewing for.

Example answer: *My biggest success, I think, was being accepted into university and offered a full scholarship based on my good grades and my enthusiastic leadership and participation in high school groups. My family immigrated here when I was in sixth grade, so it was a challenge to learn a new language and adapt to a new society. I'll be the first of my family to attend college and I am so excited about what my future holds!*

6. Tell me about a major problem you recently handled.

What they want to know: With this question, the interviewer is trying to determine how skilled you are at problem-solving. It's fine to use an example from school, work, sports or volunteering. Make sure you show a positive resolution.

Example answer: *Our German club had raised the money to attend a convention out of town. We could afford our hotel and food, but the school system didn't have the funding to provide us with a bus. Most of our parents work full-time, and we weren't getting enough volunteer carpool drivers on our sign-up sheet. I got a list of everyone's parents' and grandparents' phone numbers and called them to explain our need for transportation. By the end of the day I had more than enough volunteer drivers.*