

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



425 Job Interview Questions that Can Trip You Up

A lot of people change jobs in this community every year. If this fits your situation and you're thinking about a change, would you like to know a few trick questions you might encounter when you're interviewed? I'm Jerry Roberts and today I'll give you a few of those questions — along with possible answers. That's next on The Extra Point.

People who conduct job interviews often use questions that are designed to not only get specific information, but also to see how the candidate performs under pressure, and how well they prepared for the interview. Here's a few of those questions. Let's see how they play.

1. "Tell me about yourself." This one has been around for a long time and it's still a good way to judge personality, plus how well the candidate communicates. Can they stay on course with their answer or do they leave a jagged trail of facts and incomplete thoughts?

The interviewer does not want to know your life story. They want to know why you'll be a good fit for the job. Give a brief summary of your previous work experience, and why that makes you qualified for the new position.

2. "What do you know about us?" This one tells the interviewer if you took the time to check out your potential future employer. This is sort of like asking someone to marry you. You generally want to know something about them before you say "I do."

If you don't take the time to show you're interested in the organization you're applying to, why should they be interested in you? At least look at the company website, its social media accounts, and do a Google search to find stories about them.

3. "Tell me about a situation where you used your skills to solve a problem." Sure, they want to hear you tell a story with a happy

ending, but that's only part of this one. How you answer this question gives an indication of how you think, the kind of logic you use.

You can get some extra credit by choosing a story that displays your thought process, while solving the kind of issue that might very well come up in the job you're applying for.

4. "Why are you looking for a new job?" Is there a problem? Employers are curious to know the issues surrounding your current or most recent position, and why you're no longer there or don't want to be there.

Be careful not to open a can of worms. Don't get into the fact you didn't like your boss or the boss didn't like you. Talk about past employers with kindness and appreciation for what you learned while there, and how the experience has prepared you for a new challenge.

5. "Do you have any questions for me?" Make sure you do. Answering "no" here will indicate a lack of preparation. or lack of interest.

If you did that Google search we discussed, you should have uncovered some details about the organization that will work well in a few questions. Maybe you ask about a certain event they created, or how the interviewer would describe the company culture.

The key is to prepare for the interview, then be calm and enjoy it. Smile a lot. Do your best and keep going until you get the job you want.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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