

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 822 How to Answer Basic Job Interview Questions — Part 2

We answer more of those pesky job interview questions today, the ones you'll possibly face if you decide to apply for a new job any time soon. I'm Jerry Roberts, moving into the interview zone, next on The Extra Point.

Yesterday, we answered the following job interview questions: "Tell me something about yourself"..."What is your biggest strength?"... and "What is your biggest weakness?" Today, we have more that are common to interviews, with advice on how to handle them.

Our studio crew of Ray Gibson, Mana Silva Tajeron, and Real Joe Cruz participated yesterday and — how do I say it — gave responses that were nothing short of remarkable? Yeah, that seems to be a word that fits. We'll see how they do today.

4. "Tell me about a problem you had, and what you did to solve it."

a. Now we're into the serious questions that will allow you to show your stuff. They want to know if you're a problem solver. To score big points here, you want to come up with a story where you took a tough issue and tamed it. Go back over your list of success stories and pick out a juicy one.

b. Just like with yesterday's questions, it will be better if the story we select shows off qualities that the new employer is looking for.

c. Keep it brief. If you tell a 20-minute tale that has the interview on the verge of collapsing into sleep, that's the wrong choice.

d. If your story combines solid leadership with creativity and strategy, your score goes higher.

5. "Why do you want to work here?"

a. This question has the potential to separate candidates. If you haven't done your homework on the company, any answer you give will

likely lack serious substance. Study up on the organization.

b. What do they stand for? What are their core beliefs? Is there anything in their website content that resonates with you?

c. Can you say something like: "When I prepared for this interview I thought this question might come up, so I went to your website to see if something really attracted me — besides great products and services. When I saw your dedication to staff development, I knew this is an organization that rewards hard work and the right attitude. I appreciate that, and I want to be a part of it."

d. An alternative is to choose two or three good qualities you find on the site, or that you're aware of, then add, "That's the kind of company I want to work for."

6. "Where do you see yourself in five years?"

a. Most people groan inside when they hear this one, but it's not a bad question. You're not a fortune-teller, so don't try to be. Just give a reasonable answer.

b. "Sometimes, I think it would be fun to have a crystal ball and be able to know the answer to questions like that. Since I don't, maybe the best answer is that I'd like to achieve significant growth in my career, and I hope I can do that here at XYZ Industries. Is this a company where hard work and creativity pay off in growth opportunities?"

c. Tossing a question on the end that requires the interviewer to add a comment on company values, can make you more memorable...for a good reason.

(Con't.)

Hopefully, you can make use of Extra Points #821 and 822, on how to answer interview questions. If not, maybe you know of someone who can use the information.

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

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