**Common Interview Questions & sample answers!**

**Tell me about yourself.**

Do not ramble. I would think anything over 2 minutes is too long. They are not asking for your life story here. Let them know a bit of your relevant educational/employment background, talk about your present role (and any accomplishments you might have had), and then tell them about your interest in the field and your future goals.

*“Well, I have always loved playing videogames and so, developed an interest in how they are developed. I went to school for computer programming at x college and along the way, I worked very hard and was able to develop my own mobile app! In the future, I would love to be part of the team that develops a huge hit for the gaming industry, and I believe that your company will help me accomplish that goal.”*

**What are your strengths?**

You may want to think of three types of strengths. With each, think of a real-life example where you’ve utilized your strength and be prepared to speak to them.

1. Skill- based strengths – *“My strength is using C+ to program”*
2. Interpersonal traits – *“My strength is able to communicate effectively within a team.”*
3. Personality traits – *“My strength is my persistence. I do not give up until I have completed a task that is up to or beyond the standard.”*

**What are your weaknesses?**

Employers want to know where you can improve. Be honest, but also say something that is not essential to the job and that you actually have a plan in place for overcoming said weakness.

*“I often feel anxiety when unfamiliar scenarios suddenly arise. However, I have learned to put my anxiety in check by focusing on the things that I can do at the moment and not focus on the things that I can’t control. With a plan in place, I typically will begin to feel more at ease and confident.”*

Again, if asked to follow-up on the weakness, have a real-life example prepared that highlights what the situation was and what you did to resolve it. If you are asked “What are your strengths and weaknesses?” at the same time, start with weaknesses and end with strengths to leave off on a more positive note.

**Why should we hire you?**

Here you want to be confident without sounding like you’re boastful. Go over the facts – what are your qualifications, and how will they contribute to the company/ organization?

*” Based off what I’ve heard from you today and the job posting, I believe my expertise in computer programming will prove a huge asset to you and your company. My previous experiences have given me the technical skills to create and maintain programs, as well as it has taught me to perform well under tight deadlines. I would love to bring my skills and passion for coding to this position.”*

**Why do you want to work here?**

I’m sure money motivates all of us, but that is not the answer you should say here. Think about how the company will help accomplish your goals, and how you can help the company succeed. Maybe you researched about the company culture, and you think your personality will match.

*“I want to work here because I have heard great things about Google. I am a great match for Google’s creative and innovative culture. I know the company has recently been facing fierce pressure with its email service, but I know my skills can help create a successful competitive product. I grew up using Google, and I am excited at the opportunity to help continuously improve the website and bring new ideas to the table for future users.”*

**What salary are you looking for?**

Before you go into any job interview, look at the salary ranges for your position. Think about what your bottom line is going to be. Of course, you could always ask *“What range would you typically pay somebody of my background?”*  If you throw out random numbers, you may end up getting underpaid as the company may try to get away with paying you less than what the standard is.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Provide a general overview of where you think you will end up. I suggest crafting an answer that signals to the employer that you are going to stick around at their company for a long time without staying stagnant.

*“In five years time, I hope to be achieve the position of senior programmer. I would love to have a role that allows me to transfer my skills to new entry-level programmers, while also having more creative control over future projects. I hope to grow alongside the company where we can mutually help one another achieve our goals”*

**Can you tell me about a difficult situation and what you did to resolve it?**

Here, try to think of something memorable. Use the S.T.A.R approach. **Situation, Task, Action, Result**.

*“I had a client complain to me about a bug in the program, and he was becoming quite belligerent. He was very upset that he paid for a microtransaction but didn’t receive his product. My task then was to figure out the issue in the coding, as well as appease the client. I figured out that the code was missing a crucial line, and input the correct line needed. I kept in communication with the client during the entire process to reassure him that something was being done about the issue. After speaking with my superior, I was able to give provide the client with a reimbursement for the inconvenience, as well as give him the original product that he wanted. As a result, the client’s demeanor changed from angry to calm, and remains to be a frequent user for our mobile app.”*