“Tell me a little bit about yourself.”
This is a standard ice-breaker in most interviews. Don’t tell the interviewer your life story—offer a brief answer that relates to the job you’re seeking.

“What do you see yourself doing in five years?”
Your response should include something related to the job you are interviewing for (i.e., retail, construction management). You don’t want to say you see yourself in a completely different industry or field than the one you’re interviewing for.

“How do you make yourself indispensable to a company?”
Employers are looking for both technical and interpersonal competence. Students who have completed co-op/internship experiences generally answer this question best because they know what working for a company entails.

“What’s your greatest strength?”
Don’t just talk about your strength—relate it to the position. Let the employer know you are a qualified candidate and why.

“What’s your greatest weakness?”
The key to a successful answer is to not only discuss a weakness, but more importantly, how you compensated for this weakness. For example, you could say, “I’m not the most organized of individuals, so I always answer my e-mails and phone calls right away. I’m aware of the problem and have developed strategies to deal with it.”

“Tell me about a time when you were participating in a team project and somebody dropped the ball. What did you do to help the team finish the project on time?”
This question gives you an opportunity to highlight a number of skills, including time management, leadership, and commitment to a task.

“Give me an example of a situation in which your ethics were challenged. How did you handle it?”
Make sure your answer shows both your understanding of right and wrong, as well as your ability to use fact and discretion.

“Tell me about a time when you had to accomplish a task with someone who was particularly difficult to get along with.”
Employers want to hear something that shows you have the ability to be sensitive to the needs of others but can still influence them. Don’t just say, “I avoided them” or “I just did the work myself.” An employee who can’t delegate doesn’t have long-term management potential.

“Describe a specific problem you solved for an employee or professor. How did you approach the problem? What role did others play? What was the outcome?”
Make sure you give credit to other team members while highlighting your own part in solving the problem. This question gives you the opportunity to show you can make decisions and solve problems.

“If you could be an animal, which animal would it be and why?”
This is not a trick question. You may be asked questions that seem ridiculous or out of place. The goal to answering an unexpected question isn’t to provide a right or wrong answer. Your answer speaks volumes to the interviewer about your ability to think on your feet.

“Why do you want to work here?”
Keep your answer positive and enthusiastic and be sure to weave in some of the research you’ve done on the organization.

“Why should we hire you?”
Be ready to explain how your skills and experience are suited to the job, how you would fit into the corporate culture, and how much you really want the job.

“Do you have any questions for me?”
This is a question you can always anticipate. As a result of your research into the organization, you should always have several job or company-specific questions to ask. These questions help to illustrate your interest in the position and organization.

Adapted from Jobweb.com

Improve your interviewing skills through a virtual mock interview. Contact your career coach to schedule your HireVue interview.

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