

# TIPS AND ADVICE

## COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Today we're going to look at common interview questions and think about how to answer, thinking about what the question is and what the interviewer is looking for, to be able to understand how to answer it to the best of your ability.

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### Why did you apply for this job?

#### Why?

Any question asking 'why?' is looking for a reason. Think about why this is the job you wanted instead of something else some reasons may be:

- You have an interest in what that company does (e.g.. if you're applying for a bookshop, you probably enjoy reading).
- The company has a good reputation. You may know someone who works there already and loves their job, or you've heard they treat their staff well.
- They have a good training programme (e.g. McDonalds and Starbucks value the progress and development of their staff.)

#### Don't

Don't tell them you applied just because you want a job. This is obvious, of course you want a job. But, why do you want the job?

Saying you just want a job suggests you're not interested in the role on offer, that you've not done your research and comes across as lazy.

In an interview, you're competing against another person for the role, so tell them why you want this job more than the other person!

#### Do

Think about what the employer will want to know about you when giving your answer.

All employers want to know why you want to work for them specifically, and what you can bring to the company.

How does your answer show this.

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## What do you know about our company?

### Why?

The employer wants to know you have done more than just press 'apply' on Indeed. They want to know that you have researched the company and know what they do.

Some employers will send an information pack, but it's always best to do your own research into the company. Most of the information you would need for this question will be readily available on their website.

Employers ask this question to find out who is truly interested in the job and working for them. A passionate employee is a better employee.

### Do

1. Research the company, looking specifically at the 'about us' page on their website.
2. Pick 2 or 3 significant facts about the organisation specifically for this question.
3. Try to compliment the company where necessary but don't lie.
4. Practice your answer. re-write it and remember the significant facts you've picked out.

### Don't

Don't say nothing! If you don't know anything about the company, why did you apply for the job?

Even if you don't know much about the company, you can say they have a good reputation as a longstanding company trading in their goods - this is a good answer for a big retail or food chain, for example.

### BUT

If they are a small local business, don't lie and say that they're a big business or that they have national reputation. Focus on what you know, even if you don't think it's relevant.