

Interview hot seat

Student instructions

In Xello's **Job interviews** lesson you were introduced to 6 commonly asked questions, and now's your time to practise your answers.

- 1 Take 15 minutes to prepare talking points for each question. At the end of this time, you'll be randomly assigned a question to answer in the interview hot seat. Keep in mind the dos and don'ts when preparing your answers!

Question	Dos	Don'ts
What's your biggest weakness?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify something you don't do as well as you'd like to. • Talk about things you've done to improve this skill. • Emphasize ways you are continuing to work on this skill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretend you are perfect. • Choose a skill that is crucial to the job you're applying for. • Dwell too much on your struggles with the skill.
Tell me about a challenge you've faced, and how you dealt with it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a real incident that happened at work or school. • Explain exactly what you did to overcome the challenge. • Talk about what you learned from the challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell a story about a challenge that you couldn't overcome. • Paint yourself in a bad light. • Focus too much on the backstory.
How do you handle pressure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about strategies that help you deal with stress. • Be specific. • Try to include an example of a stressful situation you handled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insist you never get stressed. • Talk about a stressful incident of your own making. • Say you get stressed by a task common to the job you're applying for.
Tell me about a time you demonstrated leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite an example from a work, school, or volunteer experience. • Focus on the specific skills you used or actions you took. • Talk about the positive results of your actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List your leadership skills without including a specific example. • Skimp on the details. • Be afraid to sell yourself.
How would other people describe you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about strengths or traits a reference would verify. • Use examples. • Try to cite qualities that haven't yet come up in the interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about any negative traits. • Rattle off a list of traits without elaborating on them. • Focus solely on traits that are unrelated to the job you're applying for.
Do you have any questions for me?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask 2 questions about the job or employer. • Ask questions that demonstrate your interest and engagement. • Use this as an opportunity to make sure the job is a good fit for you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say you don't have any questions. • Ask any questions you should already know the answer to. • Ask any questions you should already know the answer to. • Ask about salary or benefits.

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2 Peer feedback checklist:

- Body language:
 - Angles their body toward the interviewer and nods to show they're listening
 - Avoids fidgeting or making distracting movements
- Attitude:
 - Tells engaging, true stories that shows their qualities
 - Isn't afraid to show enthusiasm and passion for their work
- Answer anatomy:
 - Effectively uses the "Dos" to structure their answer
 - Avoids the "Don'ts" in their response