

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 practice 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.

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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.

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

3 OPTIONAL: Go back and listen to your interview hot seat. What did you like about your answer? What would you improve next time? Post your recording and reflection to your Xello **Storyboard**.