

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

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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