Murdoch University

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Job Interview

Common Questions with A+ Answers



Tell me about yourself

Tip: Decide beforehand which of your experiences and skills best fit the position.

Answer: Use those to tell a personal and interesting story, describing how you got started, what you learned along the way, and how this job is the next logical step.

What interests you about this role?

Tip: Research the organisation and role in advance to find specific aspects you like, including mission, culture, customers, and the job itself.

Answer: Be specific about how your skills have prepared you to have an immediate impact.

What are your strengths?

Tip: Choose strengths of yours ahead of time that best match the requirements of the position.

Answer: Describe 2 to 3 of them in detail, using stories to make what you're saying clearer, more real, and more memorable.

Tell me about a time you failed. How did you handle that situation?

Tip: Show that you have a growth mindset, and can humbly and resiliently keep going.

Answer: Use a story of a professional setback you learned from quickly, and then keep moving forward.

Describe a time you motivated others. How were you able to?

Tip: This question is asking you to demonstrate leadership, whether or not you've held a leadership position.

Answer: Describe a time when you tailored your approach to the people involved and were positive and persuasive.

When's a time you had to handle multiple projects at once? How did it go?

Tip: Emphasise your time management abilities, organisation and reliability

Answer: Share an example of a time when you used many repeatable systems: blocking time, delegating, prioritising, communicating clearly.

Describe a time you experienced a major change at work. How did you adapt?

Tip: Employers want people who embrace change- not just tolerate it- and can adjust quickly.

Answer: Pick an example where you were impacted by a big change and adapted efficiently; extra credit if you got others to do the same.

What's an example of a time you set a goal for yourself? How did you ensure you achieved it?

Tip: Show that you know how to set clear goals and use tactics to follow through.

Answer: Choose an example when you were successful by using replicable steps, like breaking the goal into small parts, working on it each day, and improving and adjusting.

Tell me about a time you disagreed with a boss or colleague. How did you resolve it?

Tip: Don't badmouth the boss or colleague- the interviewer knows that could be them if they hire you.

Answer: Use a story where you communicated transparently and professionally, and were an active part in reaching a positive resolution.

What are your weaknesses?

Tip: Don't use cliches like "I care too much" or "I work too hard" They don't show self-awareness.

Answer: Describe 1 or 2 things that you've been working on actively and that aren't critical to succeeding in the job.

Any questions for me?

Tip: This is one of the only questions you are almost guaranteed to be asked, so make sure to prepare for it.

Answer: Ask things that show you've done your homework or are focused on success (ex, What will success look like in the first 90 days of this job?).

Anything we didn't have time to discuss?

Tip: Don't say no here! In advance, think about three main points you want to get across in your interview.

Answer: Use this time to share those communication ones you haven't shared, or reiterate those you have.



















