

What **Not** to Say in Job Interviews And What to Say Instead



✗ **Don't say:** "I don't have any questions."

? **Why:** That's a big missed opportunity – and a red flag in terms of your curiosity.

✓ **Instead say:** "What would success look like in the first 6 months of this role?"

✗ **Don't say:** "I'm looking for any job right now."

? **Why:** Seems desperate, rather than genuinely interested.

✓ **Instead say:** "I'm looking to use XYZ strengths, and I'm excited about how this role aligns."

✗ **Don't say:** "I hated my last boss."

? **Why:** Never bash a former boss or company.

✓ **Instead say:** "I've learned a lot in my previous job, especially about X, but I'm excited for a new challenge now."

✗ **Don't say:** "I don't know much about this company."

? **Why:** Suggests a lack of preparation and interest in the role.

✓ **Instead say:** "I've researched the company and love your mission. I'm especially excited about [specific part]."

✗ **Don't say:** "I'm not great at time management."

? **Why:** On the flip side, don't just say weaknesses without also showing growth.

✓ **Instead say:** "I'm improving my organisation skills by using time-blocking and productivity tools."

✗ **Don't say:** "How much does this job pay?"

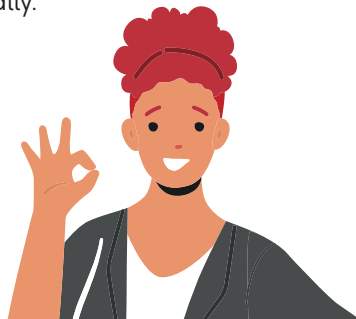
? **Why:** You can get this answered without sounding like you care more about pay than the role itself

✓ **Instead say:** "I'm excited about this, and I'd love to understand the comp-range to ensure it fits my expectations."

✗ **Don't say:** "I don't have any weaknesses."

? **Why:** This seems arrogant and like you lack self-awareness.

✓ **Instead say:** "I've been working to improve on X recently, and after taking Y steps, I've grown substantially."



✗ **Don't say:** "I was fired from my previous role."

? **Why:** Fair or not, being fired carries a stigma.

✓ **Instead say:** "My precious role ended unexpectedly, but it gave me the chance to reflect and strengthen my skills in X."

✗ **Don't say:** "I know I'm underqualified, but..."

? **Why:** Don't undercut yourself – focus on your strengths

✓ **Instead say:** "I'm excited to use my experience to lean into the challenges of this role and learn and grow quickly."

✗ **Don't say:** "I don't really have career goals"

? **Why:** Most employees prefer to see a degree of hunger to learn and grow

✓ **Instead say:** "My short-term goal is to excel in this role, and long-term, I aim to grow in X areas."

✗ **Don't say:** "When can I get promoted?"

? **Why:** In contrast to the last one. Blatant climbing isn't ideal either

✓ **Instead say:** "What does career growth look like, and how are employees supported in reaching their potential?"