

Asking Questions During Interviews

It's important to ask questions during a job interview. Asking questions can demonstrate your interest and enthusiasm for the job, as well as your natural curiousness and desire to learn. Unfortunately, asking questions can also make you seem clueless, arrogant, greedy, or lazy.

The trick, of course, is asking the *right* questions. Here are some questions that you should, and should not, ask during an interview.

Do not ask:

What does your company do?

(If you'd done your homework, you would already know).

How old are most of your employees?

(This shouldn't matter).

Will I get my own office?

(Makes you seem like you're not a team player).

How much does the job pay?

(Never discuss salary until an offer has been made).

I won't have to work on weekends, will I?

(You'll appear lazy).

How many sick days will I get?

(Indicates a potential absenteeism problem).

What are your mental health benefits?

(They'll think you've got mental health problems).

Do Ask:

I understand that flexibility is an important part of the job, particularly when undergoing intense work periods or deadlines. But is it possible to describe a typical work week or month?

Why is this position available? Is it that the company is growing, that someone got promoted, or because someone has left the position?

Why is this position important to your company?

What are the possible career paths for someone who does well in this position?

*Can you tell me about some of the people who have been in this position in the past? On average, how long did they stay, and did they remain with the company?
To whom would I report?*

Would it be possible to meet some of the people who would be my co-workers?

You seem so excited about your career with this company. Could you tell me more about your experience here?

How would you describe the work environment?

What do you feel are the most important skills for someone in this position?