

Interview - Tips for Creating Better Answers

Tip #1: Make the negative positive!

Always find a weakness, failure, or negative that has already been resolved or improved so you can put a positive spin on it. In other words, if they ask you what your greatest weakness is, **don't say:**

"Well, I'm always running late. I got fired from my last job for it."

Either pick something else, or discuss how you have struggled and grown. For example:

"Being on time was a challenge for me. I've learned strategies to help with that, and now I set my clock ahead and set alarms to make sure I'm always early."

Always show growth when asked a "negative" question!

"I'm scatter-brained and sometimes I lose things or forget responsibilities."

becomes: "After forgetting to turn in several assignments, I learned to stay organized by writing down all my tasks and responsibilities in a planner."

or: "Since I tend to misplace things, I've organized my desk and my room so that everything has its own place."

Tip #2: Don't be afraid to "brag"

As long as you stay humble, it's not bragging—it's showcasing your strengths. This is where you need to be confident about what you have done and what you are capable of learning! When they ask questions about your experience or skill, be specific about your actions and any lessons you learned. Assure them (and have examples ready if possible) of your ability and willingness to learn quickly.

"Due to my experience as a baby-sitter, I am organized, efficient, and adaptable."

"Since I have helped take care of our yard this summer, I have become a proficient gardener. I can now revitalize unhealthy plants, keep landscaping looking fresh and neat, and am able to fix and maintain all types of lawn equipment."

Tip #3: Don't say "Umm..."

This is why preparing and practicing ahead of time are critical! These answers don't just appear in your mind or roll off the tip of your tongue, so the more you practice what you **MIGHT** say, the better you will do with what you **WILL** say.

Tip #4: Memorize your main points, not an answer

You don't want to sound like you're spouting out a pre-recorded answer. Interviews are conversations, so your answers will be slightly different in each one. Know the important points you want to get across so that you can talk about them naturally.

Tip #5: Answer the question and HUSH!

Stay on point and remember that silence is a normal part of conversation—you don't have to fill it!