Successful Job Interviews: Additional Questions

Employers usually ask several questions in an interview. Applicants who show preparation, confidence, and a positive attitude have a better chance of getting a job.

1. Read the questions and answers below. Check the better answer.

1. Why do you want to work here?

   ☐ a. I really need to work. I'll work anywhere.
   ☐ b. This position matches my skills and interests. I'd like to work for a successful company like yours. I think I could contribute a lot here.

2. Why did you leave your last job?

   ☐ a. I didn't like it, and anyway I came to the U.S.
   ☐ b. I wanted to find a better opportunity.

3. Why did you leave your last job?

   ☐ a. Actually, this will be my first paid job, but I've volunteered a lot at my child's school, and I've been going to school to improve my English skills.
   ☐ b. I can't answer that because I've never worked before.

4. Tell me about a difficult situation you had to *handle*. *

   ☐ a. When I first came to this country, it was really hard. I was alone and scared. I was depressed for a long time. Somehow I have survived.
   ☐ b. When I came to this country, the change was difficult. However, I look for the positive side of things. I know I can learn, so I made some goals to meet each challenge step by step.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

   ☐ a. I prefer not to look too far ahead.
   ☐ b. Five years from now I will have more education, and I'd like to have a more responsible position at work.

** handle a situation = take care of a problem*

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6. How would your peers* or co-workers describe you?

   ☐ a. I usually keep to myself**, so I'm not sure what they would say.
   ☐ b. I think they'd say that I'm hardworking and easy to get along with.

7. What are your weaknesses?

   ☐ a. I am really nervous because I've never worked before.
   ☐ b. I haven't had much employment experience, but I've managed a lot of responsibilities at home and school. I'm sure I can learn quickly.

8. How are your English skills?

   ☐ a. Well, not as good as I would like, but I get along all right.
   ☐ b. I'm sure I can communicate well enough to do this job, and I'm improving every day. Currently I attend an English class and I've reached the high intermediate level.

9. Are you available to work nights and weekends?

   ☐ a. Yes, I am, if I have to.
   ☐ b. Yes, I am available nights and weekends.

10. Tell me about an accomplishment that you are proud of.

    ☐ a. I haven't done anything special.
    ☐ b. Last year I didn't have any experience with computers, but at school I tried to learn as much as possible. Now I have some computer skills.

11. Do you have any questions for me?

    ☐ a. No, thank you.
    ☐ b. Yes, I do. What are the opportunities for advancement?

2. Work with your classmates to write another *positive* answer for each question.

**peers = people who are equal in experience, age, or position*
***I keep to myself. = I do not talk to other students or workers.*

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