

Listening



1 8.01 Listen to a discussion about difficult job interview questions. Which questions do they discuss?

- How do you handle stress? ☐
- What is your biggest weakness? ☐
- How have you learnt from your mistakes? ☐
- What is your biggest regret? ☐
- Why are you leaving your current job? ☐
- Who is your best and worse manager? ☐

2 Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Franklin and Naomi agree that you should be truthful about your biggest weakness. _____
- 2 Franklin and Naomi both say that it's important to talk generally about your weakness. _____
- 3 Naomi says that interviewers are looking for perfection in a candidate. _____
- 4 Naomi suggests that candidates should choose a regret from their working lives. _____
- 5 Franklin says that a candidate shouldn't talk about the regret but how they overcame it. _____
- 6 Naomi and Franklin agree that it is acceptable to outline several reasons why a manager was poor. _____

3 Match the ideas. Then listen and check your answers.

- 1 Talking about your biggest weakness _____
 - 2 Talking about your biggest regret _____
 - 3 Talking about your worst manager _____
- a When a candidate gives an answer, they should avoid talking about their private lives.
 - b It helps interviewers know if a candidate is knowledgeable about themselves.
 - c It could make a candidate sound like they have feelings of anger towards someone.
 - d The number you mention is significant.
 - e A candidate can demonstrate how well they stopped being affected by a negative experience.
 - f It can help a candidate to prove that they tried to improve their skills.

4 Complete the sentences with words in the box.

aspect come across genuine grudge precise
problematic overcome self-aware

- 1 Employers want someone who's _____ and therefore understands themselves well.
- 2 It's important to be _____ and give a real answer.
- 3 Make sure the weakness is not so _____ that it'll stop you getting the job.
- 4 What _____ of organisational skills are you referring to?
- 5 You definitely need to be _____ in your answer so it's clear.
- 6 Exactly how much do you explain why a manager was your worst without sounding like you bear a _____?
- 7 You'll definitely _____ as a complainer if you say the manager was terrible.
- 8 Outline one issue and state how you managed to _____ it.

5 Choose the correct alternatives.

- 1 If you hold *an aspect/a grudge* against someone, you are angry with them.
- 2 If you *come across/overcome* in a particular way, you have particular qualities.
- 3 If you are *genuine/self-aware*, you are honest and sincere.
- 4 If something is *precise/problematic*, it is difficult to deal with.
- 5 *An aspect/A grudge* of something is one part of it.
- 6 If you know yourself well, you're *genuine/self-aware*.
- 7 If you *come across/overcome* something, you control a problem that might stop you achieving something.
- 8 If you are *precise/problematic*, you are exact.

6 Complete the article with words from Exercise 5.

Being asked why you want to leave your current job can be 1 _____, especially if you were fired or have a poor relationship with the management there. You don't want to 2 _____ across as a poor employee, but you also don't want to lie, either. The best thing is to focus on a positive 3 _____ of changing jobs rather than a negative one. There is no doubt at least one 4 _____ reason why a new job is a good idea for you. It might be that you need a new challenge, or that you feel a different role better suits your skills. Be 5 _____ in your answer, giving examples, so the interviewer is clear about what you mean and recognises that you are self-6 _____.