

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)?

- Franklin and Naomi agree that you should be truthful about your biggest weakness.
- Franklin and Naomi both say that it's important to talk generally about your weakness.
- Naomi says that interviewers are looking for perfection in a candidate.
- Naomi suggests that candidates should choose a regret from their working lives.
- Franklin says that a candidate shouldn't talk about the regret but how they overcame it.
- 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.

- Talking about your biggest weakness
- Talking about your biggest regret
- Talking about your worst manager
- When a candidate gives an answer, they should avoid talking about their private lives.
- It helps interviewers know if a candidate is knowledgeable about themselves.
- It could make a candidate sound like they have feelings of anger towards someone.
- The number you mention is significant.
- A candidate can demonstrate how well they stopped being affected by a negative experience.
- 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

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

5 Choose the correct alternatives.

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