

Interview Questions & Answers

A COMPANION PIECE TO

**9 Rules to Dominate
Your Money and
Learn What 67% of
Adults Don't Know**

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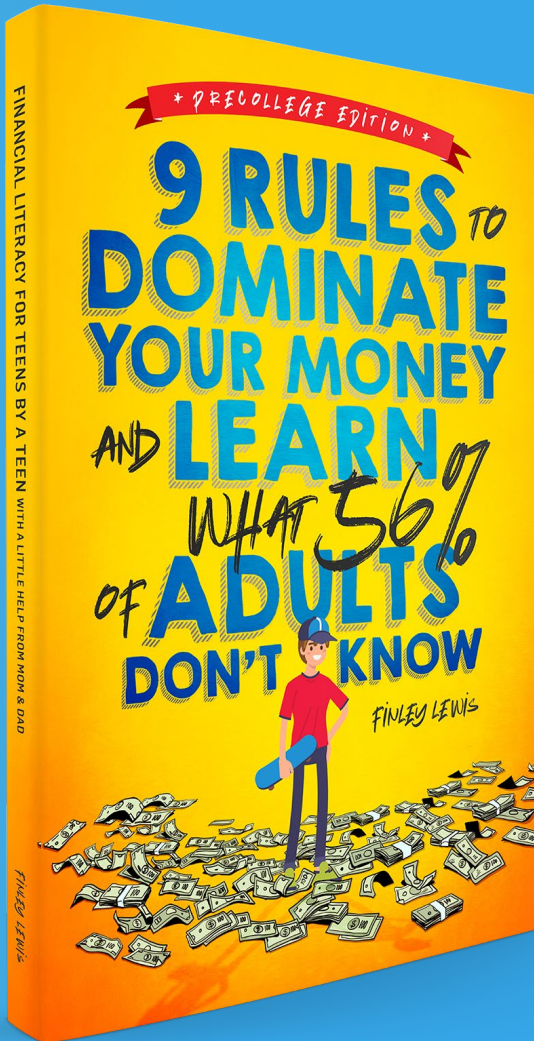


QUESTION	ANSWER	NOTES
Tell me about yourself.	Short and to the point. Tell where you are from, what grade you are in, list a hobby that is relevant to the job and a fun, harmless fact (i.e. I like cookies).	
What do you know about this company/firm/organization?	Do research online, speak to other employees (if you can) before the interview. What do they do? Who are the customers? What is the culture? When did it start?	
Why should I hire you?	List your qualities that are relevant and in demand. Better yet, tell a story that shows you are: a hard worker, punctual, pay attention to detail, great with people, friendly, a quick thinker, not afraid to ask questions, anticipate what to do next without being told, etc. .	
Tell me about your prior experience.	List any job experience, service experience, or school club/organization/band/sports team experience that may be relevant to the position you are applying for. If you truly don't have any experience tell a story about chores or work you did at home or projects completed at school that may be relevant.	
What is your greatest strength?	Pick no more than one or two traits and tell a story that shows you own those traits. For example, once I organized a canned food drive at my school. My goal was to collect 200 cans for a local charity. To accomplish this I worked with the school administration to allow me to place signs and collecton cans around the school, I recruited student leaders from sports, clubs and student council to help and collected 400 cans in total. Organization and leadership are my greatest strengths.	
What are your weaknesses?	Pick one quality and make it sound like a weakness and explain how you are learning to improve. For example, "There is so much I want accomplish that I say yes to too many activities and am often over scheduled. I am learning to prioritize and say no to activities that don't meet the criteria." Another example, "On many group projects I notice that I'm working harder than my classmates so I've learned that I am a bit of a perfectionist. Knowing this about myself is helpful because I can limit my tendancy to overcorrect afer a task is completed on time with good quality."	

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<p>Why do you want to leave your current job or company?</p>	<p>Never say anything negative about a former company, boss or work environment. And DON'T talk about money (because then they will think you jump from job to job based on pay alone)! It's best to answer this question in terms of future growth and learning opportunities in the new job. For example, "I've always wanted experience in XYZ, your company is well known as the best in XYZ- it's a better fit." Or "My focus is to grow into a management role. I see there is opportunity to advance into management here."</p>	
<p>What are you looking for in a job?</p>	<p>Do research on the position. What is the job description? List attributes that correspond. If the job is serving customers all day, then you are looking for customer interaction. If the job is stocking shelves, then you are looking for a physical, task oriented position. This is a good place to mention wanting to work toward a management position - if you want to be promoted in the future.</p>	
<p>What is your greatest strength?</p>	<p>Pick no more than one or two traits and tell a story that shows you own those traits. For example, once I organized a canned food drive at my school. My goal was to collect 200 cans for a local charity. To accomplish this I worked with the school administration to allow me to place signs and collecton cans around the school, I recruited student leaders from sports, clubs and student council to help and collected 400 cans in total. Organization and leadership are my greatest strengths.</p>	
<p>What motivates you?</p>	<p>DON'T TALK ABOUT MONEY! Every employer knows that money is the primary reason for getting a job - you don't need to talk about it. Instead, tell a story about a time when you worked really hard and what you were working for. Perhaps you were working for a sense of accomplishment, or helping others gives you satisfaction. Maybe working in a team towards a common goal is motivating like practicing with a alone or with a team for a good place in a competition. Maybe getting all A's really motivates you.</p>	

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What is your greatest achievement?	Tell a story about how you achieved an important goal. Maybe this was saving money for a car or showing responsibility to parents in order to get a pet or winning a team or solo competition or earning a black belt after years of hard work.	
Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?	This is where you show you have big dreams, goals and aspirations. The answer to this question is how you get others to see you in a different way. For example, "In 5 years I will be working as your Assistant Store Manager," or "In 5 years I will be studying business at Harvard," or "In 10 years I will be the youngest member of the U.S. Congress." There are a few things you don't want to say such as you don't want to imply that if you are hired you will take your boss's job. Your answer should show that you are a team player with plans to be at this company for a long time. "In 5 years, I see myself in a management role at this firm."	
Do you like working independently or on a team?	If you are applying for a job as a solo delivery driver feel free to say "I am a self-starter and excellent at managing my schedule to complete all my work on time." Otherwise, most jobs will have a component of team work and an appropriate answer will be "I am comfortable working both independently and on a team - whichever is required. Most school work is independent and I earn many A's for the good work I do on my own, but there are team projects in most of my classes - working in a team is fun and we always do well."	
Tell me about a time you failed	Tell a story about a time when things mildly didn't go your way and how you fixed it. Spend more time explaining how you overcame challenges to fix the problem than explaining the actual problem. Similar to the "what is your weakness" answer choose a "soft" failure (not an absolute disaster) and how you learned from it.	

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How would your coworkers/friends describe you?	This question is another version of "Why should I hire you?" List your qualities that are relevant and in demand. Or tell a story that shows your qualities. For example, "Last month, my friend missed several days of school due to illness. Missing too much classwork is hard to recover from so I gave him copies of my notes from the classes we shared and collected notes from students in his other classes. I also collected papers and assignments from his teachers." That friend would describe me as reliable and considerate."	
Tell me about a time when you resolved a conflict at work/school.	Story time! Prepare a story about how you helped friends who were fighting become friends again, how you assigned tasks within a group project to students who didn't like each other, how you negotiated peace between your younger siblings fighting over the same toy, or how you distract fighting dogs with treats.	
Tell me about a time you went above and beyond.	Prepare a story about how you helped a neighbor when they were out-of-town, or how you made dinner for the family when your parents were working late or helped your sister with her homework or free throw shot.	
Do you have any questions for me?	You will always be asked this question! And you should always have at least one question to ask or else you risk being seen as disinterested, dull, unexcited, unpersonable. Ask how many hours you can expect to work per week or will the hours be in the morning or afternoon. Ask when the weekly schedule is posted. Ask about the uniform/dress code. If you want the job, tell them you are excited and ask when can you start. Ask about how long it takes to become a manager. Ask if there is a training program or orientation. Ask when you might learn their decision to hire you.	



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