



# WEEK #7

Session 2



# How to succeed in your job interview: How to answer the Most Common Questions Part 1

# Tell me about yourself

This question is a way to **break the ice** and make you feel more comfortable

**BUT**

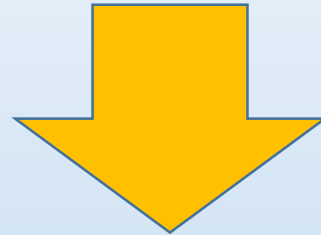
It is also a way for the interviewer to know more about **your personality** and determine if you're a **good fit** for the job

This is your big chance to make a **good first impression!**



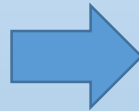
- > Do not go through your resume → **Be selective** and choose the most important achievements
- > Do not share the story of your life → **Be concise** about important qualities and skills which are relevant to the job
- > Do talk about your education, your interests, your previous professional experience but don't give too many details, keep it short.
- > Do focus on telling them about your **skills and personality** and about how your skills and attributes match the ones required by the company → **Give examples**
- > Use “power words” when describing your personality.

# Remember to follow the structure below



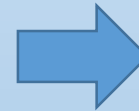
## PRESENT

1. Use adjective to describe your personality.
2. Start talking about your situation today and its connection to the potential opportunity.



## PAST

Talk about your previous experience, anything relevant and the things you've learnt



## FUTURE

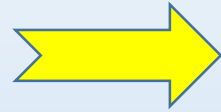
Tell why you are excited about the possibilities this new opportunity offers (what you want and what you can do for them)



## Take a look at the following “EXAMPLE”

I have always had a strong passion for the sea and sailing because I come from a family of seafarers and I have always lived by the sea. I have just completed my studies to become a deck cadet officer and during the past five years I had several working experiences onboard small boats where I learnt how to work and live in the same place and how it feels to be away from home. They've been great learning experiences, but I'm ready to spread my wings and start a proper career at sea to become a good and qualified officer on a cruise ship at such a big and important company. That's why I'm so excited for this opportunity I've been given to prove my eagerness to learn and motivation to do a great job.

# HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?



JUST TELL THE TRUTH

- You have a colleague or friend in the company who suggested you apply or mentioned they were hiring
- You like their company and went to their website and “Careers” page specifically to look for a job opening because you want to work for this company
- You saw an advertisement for a job opening (on LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.)
- You read an article saying they were hiring

# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR COMPANY?

The interviewer wants to know if you:

- a) have done your **research** about their company
- b) can describe the company well → Find something you can compliment for
- c) can translate what you know about the company into **expressing**  
**interest** → you can also ask a question



# WHY DO YOU WANT THIS JOB?

The interviewer wants to know that you're not there just for the money and that they can rely on you to do the work, also they want to make sure you understand the value of the company

- ✓ What do you admire and appreciate of this company?
- ✓ Show your motivation and enthusiasm (you always wanted to work there and this is your career goal)
- ✓ Show how your skills and personality match what they're looking for

# WHY SHOULD WE HIRE YOU?

Figure out what the company wants/needs most.

The fastest and easiest way to know what they need is to look at the **job description**.

It's important to show that you **WANT** to be doing the type of work they need.

“My job search is entirely focused on starting a career at sea on cruise ships and my ideal scenario is to work for a major international cruise company, like yours. I've read the job description and it seems written for me. I'm a quick learner and a team player. I'm strong and can handle working long hours. I'm especially keen on this role because of your company's environmental policies, and I think my background is a good match for your strategy.”

## WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

The interviewer wants to make sure you actually want to be there in the long term

“After 5 years I would like to see myself as a good officer leading a team of dedicated and motivated bridge team members in your company and in the process I would like to grow as an individual both professionally and personally. I believe I can achieve this goal through effort, commitment and hard work.”

# WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Select something that genuinely excites you.

It does not have to be directly related to the job

The employer might ask you some questions, so you need to be comfortable talking about the topic.

For example, if you say your passion is reading novels, the employer might ask what your favorite book is.

“I'm passionate about baking: I love researching new recipes and testing them out. I'm also a very social person, and use my baking as a chance to get together with friends and family.”

## Week #7 Assignment

GO AHEAD!

Shoot a video of yourself while you answer **each** of the above questions making sure you dress and act as if you were at a *real job interview!*



# IDIOM OF THE WEEK

## << A FISH OUT OF WATER >>

To feel very uncomfortable in the situation you're in

→ Paul felt like a fish out of water at the party.

Invent a sentence  
of your own  
using this idiom!

