Job Interviews Coming Up?
5 Interview Questions You Should Ask Potential Employers

A job interview is a two-way street. Not only do you, as the interviewee, have to be prepared to answer interview questions, you should also plan on asking your own questions during job interviews.

If you do, you’ll have plenty of company. Eighty-four percent of professionals responding to a recent Accountemps survey said they ask hiring managers questions during job interviews. Here are five productive interview questions to serve up the next time you find yourself in the role of interviewee:

1. What’s a typical day like for someone in this position? The answer to this question will be helpful in at least two ways: You’ll get crucial information about what your day-to-day duties would be if hired, and you’ll gain insight on how well your prospective manager understands exactly what the job entails.

2. Who was in the role before me, and why did they leave? The interviewee should not expect the full scoop on the previous employee’s history, of course, but learning more about why the position is open will provide a better idea of whether you’ll have the tools and support you’ll need to succeed if you eventually accept the job.

3. What qualities do you think would make someone successful in this position? The answer to this question will not only help you get a handle on whether the job would be a good fit for you but also give you a chance to emphasize your skills and traits that match up well with what the company needs.

4. What do you see as the greatest opportunities for the company in the next several years? This question shows that you’re interested in more than just the short term, and the response will shed light on the company’s leadership style and plans for the future.

5. What do you like most about working here? In general, it’s not appropriate for you, the interviewee, to put the hiring manager in the hot seat. But this question brings a human element to job interviews while still keeping the focus on the workplace and how individual employees can gain career satisfaction from contributing to the firm’s mission.

Being ready for questions directed your way during job interviews means being able to respond with informative answers, but it also means being able to recognize when the time is right to pose your own questions. Hiring managers understand this, and they’ll be attuned to how well you seize opportunities to ask what you need to know. The interview questions you ask may well turn out to be as important as the ones you answer.
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