

Chapter 1 : How to Answer the Biggest Challenge Interview Question

May 26, Â· Like you, I don't think my weaknesses are anybody's business, but I don't want to embarrass myself or the interviewer by saying so. I suspect that the person interviewing me didn't decide to ask.

It can be really tricky to answer what your biggest weakness is. The easiest answer is to pick an honest weakness of yours that can be fixed and how you are currently improving yourself. What has been your biggest failure? As with the question about your biggest weakness, you want to highlight a real failure, but also provide what you have learned and what you did to try and mitigate the failure. After I heard the news, I called the company back and managed to win some of the business back by sweetening the deal. The answer for why a company should hire you can also come in a form of: The worst answers to give are the ones that talk about what the company can do for you, rather than the reverse. What you want to highlight to the interviewer is what you as a valued employee can do for them and to leave the interviewer with some quantifiable takeaways about your performance. You should hire me as a salesperson because I am a hard worker with proven experience in the carpet industry. Do you prefer to work alone or as part of a team? The best answer is a balance of both, where you illustrate that in certain situations you prefer to work alone, but in general you are always a team player at heart. When the task requires only one person, I like to work alone and then to go to my team and ask for feedback so I can improve my work product. Similarly, if the task is too big for one person to handle, I like to work in a team and to share the tasks fairly among us. Do you feel you are overqualified or underqualified for this job? For any question that has both pros and cons to each answer, choose the middle ground. List out a skill or quality where you feel overqualified and counteract it with another where you feel under qualified. When it comes to experience in the industry, I feel overqualified for the job role, but as it is in a different department and in another role that I am not very familiar with, I feel under qualified in that respect. The Bottom Line Keep in mind that we are all our worst critics. Even if you think you may have screwed up the interview, your impression may not be the same as theirs. Stay calm, take time to formulate a good answer, practice beforehand and know your resume inside and out. You will feel less nervous, the more prepared you are and interviewers do understand that every job interview comes with a certain amount of nervousness and pressure.

Chapter 2 : The 20 big questions in science | Science | The Guardian

There are several different ways to answer when you're asked during a job interview what your greatest weakness is. You can mention skills that aren't critical for the job, discuss skills you have improved on, or turn a negative into a positive.

Unreliable Violent Perhaps you can overcome those weaknesses, but it will be hard to convince someone that you have completely recovered. Sample Answers Be prepared with more than one weakness in case you are asked for a second or third or more. Choose one from each category or focus on one type. Often, if your job search is focused on one type of job, one set of weaknesses will be sufficient. The "Strength in Disguise" Weakness What do I mean by a "weakness that is really a strength in disguise"? The weakness is really a good characteristic that has been taken a bit too far. These will give you an idea of the kinds of weaknesses you can confess to and the way you have overcome it. Notice the two part answers: Enthusiastic Learner and Hard Worker Confession "Some people would consider the fact that I have never worked in this field before as a weakness. However, being fast learner and open minded, I have no pre-conceived notions on how to perform my job. I am never bored because there is always something new to learn. In addition, although I have no former on-the-job experience with this work, I do bring my love of learning new things, which can only enhance my ability to learn this process very quickly. Careful, Thoughtful, and Self-Sufficient Confession "As a child, I was identified as an introvert, and I have considered that a weakness. I tend to prefer to work alone or with a very small group of people whom I know I can trust. I prefer working in a very quiet environment which is not always possible in a busy office with people working and talking in cubicles all around me. I am motivated to work based more on thought and reason than on emotion. When something has been identified as important to do, I want to work on it NOW and finish it as soon as possible. I expect that of myself, and I expect it of my co-workers and subordinates. I actually keep a list, and share the top 5 items on that list with my boss and my team. I find I can get more done this way, am focused on what is most important to my manager, and also have a better relationship with my co-workers and subordinates. Flipping a Strength into Weakness and then Recovering! Consider how or why you developed a particular strength or achieved an accomplishment? Tell that narrative in two parts, as usual about how you converted a weakness into something positive. See the sample strengths for some options to consider. Microsoft Office Expertise Previous Weakness: Problem Solving and Microsoft Office Expertise [Note that this is a "hard skill" weakness that is easy to overcome with training, effort, and time. For example, if one of your strengths is expert usage of Microsoft Office and that is relevant to this job, you could confess a weakness like this confession and recovery: Confession "In my last job, we used the same medical transcription software for many years. It ran on the old technology we used, so my software skills became out of date. So, over a 6-month period, I took hours of training in the relevant Microsoft Office products -- Excel, Word, and Outlook -- practicing on my own time. As a result, I became proficient enough to help when we finally made the transition to the new software. Obsession with Technology Strength Presented: Confession "I have had a hard time disconnecting from technology. I always have my smart phone with me and, of course, I have both a Mac and a PC at home. And some organizations want and expect this kind of "obsession" by employees. So, if you want to work for one of those employers, you might want to find a different, more irrelevant weakness. So, save one of your related -- but not critical -- strengths to use for your greatest weakness if necessary, and be ready to describe it as above: The "Irrelevant" Weakness Perhaps you would prefer to use the harmless weakness strategy. These weaknesses can be very personal -- like a hobby or a favorite type of book, music, movie, or video -- or less personal like a love of travel or a specific model of car. If possible, find an irrelevant weakness that shows you are a good choice for the job. Addiction to Knitting and Crocheting Strength: Creativity This could be a good "weakness" for someone interviewing for a job that requires creativity, or it might be completely irrelevant to the job. As usual, we have a 1 confession and a slight 2 recovery: Confession "I love to knit and crochet, and I have spent too much time and effort doing that in the past. I also found I spent too much money on special yarns, needles, and other tools. But I enjoy being creative, and I love giving family, friends, and charities

items that I have created myself. Others may not, so use caution with this type of answer. If you are not sure if you are picking a negative weakness, review the criteria for the position, and put yourself in the shoes of the employer to consider what you would like to hear and what you would think was negative. Take time to practice difficult answers like this with a partner until you feel comfortable so that you will sound natural and confident in the interview. Answering the Common Job Interview Questions:

Chapter 3 : How to Answer the "What Are Your Strengths?" Interview Question

The tricky greatest-weakness question can be answered 3 ways, and these 66 examples give you ideas on how you can pick your best 'weaknesses' to give great answers in your next job interview.

Hard Skill Strengths Having the appropriate hard skills means that you have the technical skills required for a job. People are not usually born with one of these skills. These skills are typically learned skills. For example, tax accountants have been trained in how to use various tools, from spreadsheets and financial forms to the IRS regulations for recognizing income and calculating the appropriate allowed deductions. Other professions have their own required hard skills. Analyzing the job description should give you a very good idea of the hard skills required for the job. In a job interview, the tax accountant could share their professional certifications and level of experience in tax accounting that demonstrate their strength in tax accounting and how they meet the requirements of the job. Hard skills can typically be tested or measured in some way, although not every employer will do the testing. After analyzing the job description, develop a list of the strengths that apply to you and to the job you want. When you have accomplishments that can be verified through public media LinkedIn or other media or through discussions with your references, choose strengths that include those accomplishments. Being expert at organizing events is not a strength valued by an employer which is not interested in having events. On the other hand, being a good mediator can be highly valued when negotiation skills are necessary. Jeff also highly recommends sharing stories of your relevant accomplishments when you share a strength. Anyone can claim to be a good communicator or team player, but that claim is empty and unimpressive without examples of how they have communicated well or been a key member of an important team. Your Relevant Stories , for details in how to put your stories together. Three-Part Answers Like good answers to the greatest weakness question, the answers to the greatest strength question also have three parts: Proof of the strength. Share examples of the strength that demonstrate your qualifications for the job you are interviewing for. Tell the true " stories " about your accomplishments. Connect the dots between your strengths and their needs. Be sure to present strengths in terms of how they impact the employer. Advertisement These are only examples. Use these as guides to help you develop your own answers. Problem Solver Particularly for customer service and other customer-facing jobs, this is a strength that employers love. Strength "I pride myself on my leadership skills, something I was taught in my 5 years as a non-commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps. As in combat, leadership in project management is necessary to keep project teams moving forward in the right direction. Keep your answers short. You will be demonstrating your loyalty and ethics, which a new employer should appreciate. Focus on strengths relevant to the job and employer. Advertisement The Bottom Line Focus on making it clear to the interviewers that you are qualified for the job, interested in the work, and a good fit for the organization. Use the examples above as starting points to help you determine your own soft-skill strengths. Then, analyze the job description to see which of your hard skills would be most appropriate to mention.. Answering the Common Job Interview Questions:

Chapter 4 : How You Should Answer The 10 Most Common Interview Questions

is an often-used job interview question and is frequently paired with the greatest-weakness question. It sounds like a simple question, but it is NOT. It sounds like a simple question, but it is NOT. This question is also an invitation to explain why you are the best-qualified candidate for this job.

Today, I want to talk about one of the most common and aggravating interview questions of them all: What is your greatest weakness? Are you rolling your eyes? Most candidates hate this question and consider it pointless. Because the way you answer a question about your weaknesses is very telling. You may not even realize what you are communicating when you answer this question. I say that as an interview coach who has now worked with thousands of job seekers. To help out, we created an entire video lesson around it in our flagship product Big Interview. Here are the mistakes that they typically make you may be able to relate: Trying to turn a negative into a positive. She has seen many candidates try the same song and dance. In fact, this approach will likely make her think you are hiding something. Refusing to answer the question. This answer also makes you look like you are hiding something. Revealing a weakness that raises red flags. Another mistake is to be too candid and confess to a weakness that would hinder your ability to excel in the role. Read on for our advice on how to avoid these mistakes and talk about your weaknesses in a way that is both honest and smart. Interview Questions About Weaknesses Here are some of the different weakness questions that are regularly asked in job interviews: This is probably the most common phrasing. Here you are being asked for more than one. The interviewer knows you have that one B. Some interviewers will ask you to sum up both strengths and weaknesses in one answer. This phrasing is tricky. This question probes for weakness, but also emphasizes your ability to proactively set development goals. This phrasing takes a more positive approach, but it is still a question about weaknesses. Follow-up Questions About Weaknesses You should also be prepared for follow-up or probing questions, especially if your answer to the original weakness question was vague or unconvincing. This is a more pointed follow-up when the interviewer is skeptical about your answer. A tough interviewer may ask for more than one weakness, especially if the first one provided sounds false or over-rehearsed. Some interviewers just know that candidates often prepare only one weakness and want to see what they come up with on the spot. If you dodge the question or try to fake your way through, the interviewer will wonder if: It can be very difficult to talk about your flaws in a stressful situation like a job interview. Negative topics require added diplomacy See also: Answering behavioral questions about failure. Is my breath okay? Why did he just frown like that? What am I going to say if he asks why I left my last job? How am I going to remember that teamwork example? However, there is a way to answer that is honest and authentic and still increases your odds of getting a job offer. Discuss your proactive efforts to improve. This shows that you are self-aware, have a drive to be your best, and that the weakness will not slow you down. You will make a better impression with sincerity. This is a preference or personality quality that would be more difficult to change. Be brief and, most importantly, avoid sounding defensive or overly negative. Read on to the last section for examples of good weaknesses to describe in job interviews. How to Demonstrate That You Are Working on Your Weakness In the second part of your answer, you need to describe how you have already taken steps to improve in your area of weakness. This is how to truly emphasize the positive when talking about your weakness. I had never managed direct reports before, so this was a hugely educational experience in many different ways. It definitely taught me how to delegate and my manager noticed the difference in my management style at the end of the summer. I know that I can benefit from additional development in this area, so I signed up for a management skills training course and am always looking for opportunities to manage projects for our group. This is a great example for a junior-level employee in a role in which delegation abilities are not critical. The weakness is acknowledged and described, but the emphasis is more on how the candidate has sought out ways to improve. My personality is naturally very straightforward and to the point, and most of my colleagues really value that, but I have learned that there are times on the job when more diplomacy is required. I took a training class on conflict management and it really opened my eyes to the need to communicate differently with different people. This weakness is

described well. The candidate notes how directness has been a weakness while also making it clear that he is not a raging jerk to his coworkers. In the second part, he talks about concrete steps that he has taken and how he has improved. I tend to get nervous when asked to present to a large group of people. But put me in front of a big group and I can get flustered. I actually spoke to my manager about this and we set it as one of my development goals for this year. I took an internal presentation skills class and attended some meetings of Toastmasters, a networking group for people who want to practice public speaking. With some practice, I started to feel more comfortable. Last month, I even volunteered to represent our team at a division-wide town hall. I only had to present for 10 minutes, but I did it and got great feedback! It was actually kind of fun, so I plan on continuing to seek out opportunities to improve in this area. Fear of public speaking is a common fear. In this sample answer, the candidate makes it clear that she has no trouble communicating in general which could be a red flag. She goes on to describe how she identified the weakness, spoke with her manager about it, and then took proactive steps to improve. She even has a little triumph at the end. Impatience Share your weaknesses or your experiences with the weakness question in interviews. Will Ferrell shows you how to climb the corporate ladder. She also has more than 15 years of experience training and advising managers at organizations from American Express to the City of New York.

Chapter 5 : "What Is Your Greatest Weakness?" Best Answers (6 Proven Examples)

Discussing your strengths and weaknesses can be one of the most difficult parts of the job interview. But don't panic when a recruiter asks you this question—we've got your back with an answer that will help you look like a star.

What are some other weaknesses? Start by asking yourself the following: Was there a time that I failed at work? Was there a time that I failed at work and corrected it? Did my supervisor ever point out that I needed to work on something and then praise me when I corrected it? Did anyone ever criticize me for working in a particular way? Remember, the best answer to the what are your weaknesses question will be in two parts. Next, go to your job offer. What skills can you find? Show up on time every day. Works well under pressure. Ability to work in a fast-paced, team environment. Has a positive, bubbly, and friendly attitude. Can pay attention to detail, speed, accuracy, follow-through, and multitasking. Can learn and retain information. Good listening skills and the ability to follow instructions. Look at your list. I was never a bookworm. I always preferred athletics and hands-on activities. To make sure that I got through school with good grades, I set study goals for myself. I would sit still and focus on test materials for thirty minutes. After, I would reward myself with a break to run around or socialize. The system taught me discipline and helped me focus. I graduated from my high school with honors. I am now attending college on an athletic scholarship. But she does mention her strengths as she goes along. For example, she is disciplined and can learn new information. Second, she shows what she did to address her weakness. She set study goals. And these steps lead to her success. She got good grades and earned a scholarship. Wrong Admitting to a weakness that is necessary for the job. I have anger management issues. I tend to blow up when someone makes me angry or nervous. I have a couple of regulars who are as grumpy as me, and we get along fine. I would say my greatest weakness is my writing skills. I like crunching numbers. But when it comes to words I get tongue-tied and forget the rules. The app gives the activity a tech feel, which makes the whole thing more comfortable for me as well. Plus, she is taking measures to do better. Wrong A real weakness, but one that would affect your job performance. No matter how hard I try, no one laughs when Bobo does his clown show. Have you done any of the following things to improve your weakness: Get training Internal or External Join groups or workshops. Do volunteer work or an activity outside of work that uses that skill. Get help from a mentor or advisor. Find tools that help correct the weakness.

Chapter 6 : What are good answers to the 'greatest weakness' interview question? | HR Software Solutions

Being prepared for your job interview is crucial for a good outcome, so think about how you might answer these types of questions. Strengths and Weaknesses for Job Interviews Strengths and weaknesses are different for almost every job.

Today, we are tackling another critical job interview question: What are your strengths? This is a commonly-asked question in job interviews for all levels of positions in all industries. Even when this question is not asked, you must be able to answer it in order to land the job. You must be prepared to talk about your strengths. With this question, the interviewer seeks to find out if: So how could you screw it up? You know yourself, right? Unfortunately, many candidates fail to prepare properly and sabotage themselves. Here are some of the common mistakes that I see when working with my coaching clients: Knowing your strengths will serve you well in job interviewing and in the rest of your life as well. You have to get over any hesitation to say nice things about yourself. You can do it in a way that feels comfortable and authentic if you prepare in advance. This mistake makes a candidate bland and forgettable at best. At worst, you can raise red flags with the interviewer “ who wants to hire someone whose greatest strength is the ability to show up on time? Sit down and make a list of your top strengths “ aim for at least 10 and be creative. Banish your modest internal editor to another room. Jot down everything that comes to mind. You can delete later if you like. Your strengths could include: Experience “ Experience with a certain software or type of task, expertise in a particular industry, a track record of working with similar products or clients, etc. Talents “ Abilities such as programming in a desired language, writing proposals, selling widgets, litigating cases, organizing events, translating from Mandarin, etc. If you have trouble coming up with enough work-related strengths, jot down positive personality qualities or personal strengths. You may find ways to relate these to job performance. Narrow your list down to least five strengths that you are comfortable discussing or could get comfortable discussing with a little bit of practice. The more, the better. Develop at least one example or Interview Story to illustrate each of your strengths. Choosing the Right Strengths 1. Choose strengths that you actually possess. You want to be yourself in an interview, just the best and most professional version of yourself. You will be much more convincing and likable if you talk about authentic strengths. You should take the time to analyze the job description and identify the most important strengths for each opportunity. You likely have many strengths, but which will be most relevant for this interviewer? See common mistakes above. Just about everybody can and should be pleasant to work with. To get the job, you have to show you would bring more to the position. Be prepared to demonstrate. As discussed, have a concise example ready to back each strength up. Be careful about rambling on too long here. Your answer should still be minutes long. If you want to share three strengths and back each up with an example, you will want to practice in advance so that you can do it in a concise way. Get a second opinion. Ask a trusted friend or colleague what they think are your greatest strengths. Go back to previous performance reviews and analyze the positive feedback. Look for common themes in your achievements. Try to read your resume with fresh eyes “ as if it was the resume of an admired friend. Try the StrengthsFinder assessment. You can answer a series of questions and get a report that summarizes your top strengths. I use StrengthsFinder with many of my coaching clients and the results can really help with your professional and personal development. Many corporations also ask their employees to take the StrengthsFinder assessment as a foundation for their performance improvement plans. I have the ability to see a situation from different perspectives and I can get my work done even in the face of difficult obstacles. I also feel that my communication skills are top notch. I feel just as comfortable presenting to senior executives as I do mediating a conflict between junior team members. I worked as a programmer in the past so I have that perspective of a developer and I think that they respect me for that. This is a nice answer that summarizes three strengths that are relevant for the job at hand. You have to add some detail and color to make your answer more believable and memorable. In this case, the candidate talks about how her problem solving skills work seeing things from different perspectives and gives examples of her communication skills presenting to senior leaders and mediating team disputes. We also like her discussion of her programming past and how this makes her a better manager. Notice that she did not include a specific example for each of the

strengths cited. Sometimes you want to avoid squeezing too much detail into one answer. This candidate gave a little bit of detail for each strength and then left an opening for the interviewer to ask for more information. She should, of course, be prepared with an Interview Story for each of her strengths. When I commit to a deadline, I do whatever it takes to deliver. For example, last week we had a report due and got some numbers back late from our team in Singapore. I pulled an all-nighter to finish the spreadsheet because I knew that the client HAD to receive the report on time. Anybody can say that they work hard. This candidate gets specific about what work ethic means to him and talks about being deadline-driven and reliable, with a specific example. I am able to communicate complicated topics to different audiences. I can take a lot of data and information and find the story and themes that clients need to know about. I honed my research and writing abilities during my days writing for the college paper, where I learned how to write well on deadline from pretty demanding editors. I even won an award for my series on the financial crisis. This answer explains why the candidate is a good writer and how that applies to the position. Keep in mind that there are many other questions that basically ask for your strengths. You should walk into every interview with a clear goal: If all else fails, wait until the end of the interview when they ask you if you have anything else to add after you have asked some smart questions of the interviewer. Then, take the opportunity to summarize your strengths and reiterate your interest in the position. She also has more than 15 years of experience training and advising managers at organizations from American Express to the City of New York.

Chapter 7 : 5 Tough Interview Questions And How To Answer Them

"You've told me about your strengthsâ€”now, can you share what you consider to be your biggest weakness?" It's the interview question that nobody likes. Well, except for hiring managersâ€”who ask it pretty frequentlyâ€”which means that you should be prepared with a well-thought-out answer.

Alamy 1 What is the universe made of? Astronomers face an embarrassing conundrum: Over the past 80 years it has become clear that the substantial remainder is comprised of two shadowy entities â€” dark matter and dark energy. The former, first discovered in , acts as an invisible glue, binding galaxies and galaxy clusters together. Astronomers are closing in on the true identities of these unseen interlopers. Four billion years ago, something started stirring in the primordial soup. A few simple chemicals got together and made biology â€” the first molecules capable of replicating themselves appeared. We humans are linked by evolution to those early biological molecules. But how did the basic chemicals present on early Earth spontaneously arrange themselves into something resembling life? How did we get DNA? What did the first cells look like? Some say life began in hot pools near volcanoes, others that it was kick-started by meteorites hitting the sea. Astronomers have been scouring the universe for places where water worlds might have given rise to life, from Europa and Mars in our solar system to planets many light years away. Radio telescopes have been eavesdropping on the heavens and in a signal bearing the potential hallmarks of an alien message was heard. Astronomers are now able to scan the atmospheres of alien worlds for oxygen and water. The next few decades will be an exciting time to be an alien hunter with up to 60bn potentially habitable planets in our Milky Way alone. We do, however, have bigger brains than most animals â€” not the biggest, but packed with three times as many neurons as a gorilla 86bn to be exact. A lot of the things we once thought distinguishing about us â€” language, tool-use, recognising yourself in the mirror â€” are seen in other animals. Scientists think that cooking and our mastery of fire may have helped us gain big brains. The harder, more philosophical, question is why anything should be conscious in the first place. We spend around a third of our lives sleeping. But scientists are still searching for a complete explanation of why we sleep and dream. Animal studies and advances in brain imaging have led us to a more complex understanding that suggests dreaming could play a role in memory, learning and emotions. Rats, for example, have been shown to replay their waking experiences in dreams, apparently helping them to solve complex tasks such as navigating mazes. When they meet , both disappear in a flash of energy. Our best theories suggest that the big bang created equal amounts of the two, meaning all matter should have since encountered its antimatter counterpart, scuppering them both and leaving the universe awash with only energy. Researchers are sifting data from experiments like the Large Hadron Collider trying to understand why, with supersymmetry and neutrinos the two leading contenders. Our universe is a very unlikely place. Alter some of its settings even slightly and life as we know it becomes impossible. It may sound crazy, but evidence from cosmology and quantum physics is pointing in that direction. Now we have to put all that carbon back, or risk the consequences of a warming climate. But how do we do it? One idea is to bury it in old oil and gas fields. Another is to hide it away at the bottom of the sea. Our nearest star offers more than one possible solution. Another idea is to use the energy in sunlight to split water into its component parts: The hope is that these solutions can meet our energy needs. The fact you can shop safely on the internet is thanks to prime numbers â€” those digits that can only be divided by themselves and one. Public key encryption â€” the heartbeat of internet commerce â€” uses prime numbers to fashion keys capable of locking away your sensitive information from prying eyes. And yet, despite their fundamental importance to our everyday lives, the primes remain an enigma. An apparent pattern within them â€” the Riemann hypothesis â€” has tantalised some of the brightest minds in mathematics for centuries. However, as yet, no one has been able to tame their weirdness. Doing so might just break the internet. Antibiotics are one of the miracles of modern medicine. Yet this legacy is in danger â€” in Europe around 25, people die each year of multidrug-resistant bacteria. Thankfully, the advent of DNA sequencing is helping us discover antibiotics we never knew bacteria could produce. Our tablets and smartphones are mini-computers that contain more computing power than astronauts took to the moon in But if we want to keep on increasing the

amount of computing power we carry around in our pockets, how are we going to do it? There are only so many components you can cram on to a computer chip. Has the limit been reached, or is there another way to make a computer? Scientists are considering new materials, such as atomically thin carbon “ graphene “ as well as new systems, such as quantum computing. The short answer is no. Not a single disease, but a loose group of many hundreds of diseases, cancer has been around since the dinosaurs and, being caused by haywire genes, the risk is hardwired into all of us. The longer we live, the more likely something might go wrong, in any number of ways. For cancer is a living thing “ ever-evolving to survive. Robots can already serve drinks and carry suitcases. Ninety-five per cent of the ocean is unexplored. In , Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard travelled seven miles down, to the deepest part of the ocean, in search of answers. Their voyage pushed the boundaries of human endeavour but gave them only a glimpse of life on the seafloor. But on such scales quantum physics probably has something to say too. Except that general relativity and quantum physics have never been the happiest of bedfellows “ for decades they have withstood all attempts to unify them. We live in an amazing time: Our knowledge of what causes us to age “ and what allows some animals to live longer than others “ is expanding rapidly. And since many diseases, such as diabetes and cancer, are diseases of ageing, treating ageing itself could be the key. The number of people on our planet has doubled to more than 7 billion since the s and it is expected that by there will be at least 9 billion of us. Where are we all going to live and how are we going to make enough food and fuel for our ever-growing population? Maybe we can ship everyone off to Mars or start building apartment blocks underground. We could even start feeding ourselves with lab-grown meat. These may sound like sci-fi solutions, but we might have to start taking them more seriously. Time travellers already walk among us. At that speed the effect is minuscule, but ramp up the velocity and the effect means that one day humans might travel thousands of years into the future. Nature seems to be less fond of people going the other way and returning to the past, however some physicists have concocted an elaborate blueprint for a way to do it using wormholes and spaceships. The Big Questions in Science:

Chapter 8 : Top 20 Most Frequently Asked Bible Questions

This common interview question can throw a candidate for a loop. Prepare ahead and ace the interview. Among the possible interview questions, the greatest weakness interview question causes universal dread in most job candidates.

Ability to multitask in a constantly changing environment. Situation - Over a six-month period, I had to assist ABC company in two major reorganization projects. First, the company went through a merger. Next, we moved our headquarters across town. The new filing system had to be in place before we moved. Second, I spearheaded the move to the new headquarters. My responsibilities included packing up the office and coordinating with the movers. I also had to keep everything within budget. So, I dedicated time after hours to learn the new system. I watched online tutorials and read the manuals front to back. I paid close attention to details. For the move, I chose a moving company that had helped other companies in our building move. The company had also worked with me in my previous role and offered a discount. It took me half the time expected to put the new system in place. That allowed me to focus on moving the office. I became an expert in the new filing system, and my supervisor chose me to teach the process to everyone else. My choice of moving company also made the transition to the new office smooth. Notice how the candidate included almost all the skills from the job description. Here are the skills she included in her answer to the "what are your strengths" question: Ability to work in a constantly changing environment. Ability to balance workloads efficiently. Ability to learn programs and processes quickly. Extremely good people skills. Flexibility and willingness to take on more responsibility. Ability to devote time necessary to complete deadlines. Ability to multitask and work under pressure. Ability to coordinate projects simultaneously. Ability to meet deadlines under stringent time constraints. Efficiency and attention to detail. You can use resume achievements to answer the "what are your strengths" question. Skills that Get Jobs: The interview can follow up the "what are your strengths" question by asking for more examples of strengths. They could also ask the popular combination question: What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses? With that in mind, our Administrative Assistant candidate will want to prepare. Plus a success story told using the STAR method to illustrate the impact of your strength in action. My greatest strength is my people skills. Part of that comes from my ability to maintain strict levels of confidentiality. Two birds, one strength. At my last company, we worked with several large corporate clients. For a significant industry event, my supervisor asked me to book travel arrangements. She starts her example with a situation. She then references the work she did for large corporations. She noticed the job offer asks for experience in a corporate environment. So, she makes a point to refer to her experience in her "what are your strengths" answer. The task required me to form relationships with other admin assistants. I also had access to sensitive information. The task refers to the two personal strengths mentioned in the beginning. I earned the trust of both internal and external executives. They heard that I was the preferred point of contact for their assistants. They praised me for my discreteness and excellent written communication skills. They also noticed that I am Internet savvy. I booked the best deals without compromising on quality. Here the candidate draws on additional skills. Practice will help you fit in additional skills over the natural course of the conversation. After the event, my supervisor chose me to coordinate travel arrangements. So, I continued to work from then on with our executives and our largest confidential clients. The candidate shows the impact of her personal strengths. I can do a Powerpoint presentation now and then. I guess my other strengths are making coffee, stapling things, and typing. Oh yeah, and I can open emails, talk on the telephone, send emails, and use scissors. The candidate here uses words and phrases that undermine his confidence. Also, notice the laundry list of random skills. Anyone who works in an office can staple and use scissors. Most preschool children can. Use strong, confident words. This is just one question of many you will hear. Prepare for all of them: Send a thank you email: Struggling with job interview anxiety?

Chapter 9 : Ten Tough Interview Questions and Ten Great Answers

To properly answer this dreaded interview question, remember: Focus on being self-aware, honest, and dedicated to improvement. If you've got these three qualities, your weakness won't ruin your chances of landing the job.

We talked to hiring experts to find out which questions trip up most job candidates, and the better answers that could win you the job.

Tell Me About Yourself The problem: Most candidates find this question overwhelming, says Michele Mavi, director of content development, internal recruiting, and training for the hiring agency Atrium Staffing. A better way to answer it is to talk about your experience in a way that positions you as being a perfect match for the role. I need a job. A good answer, however, revolves around the mission, vision, and values of the company. Talk about how the mission speaks to you, and then tie those things back to the description and your unique skill set. The biggest mistake candidates make with their response is focusing on how the role fits into their career plan, and how it will help them be more professionally fulfilled and advance their career, says Mavi. What you should say: I believe I can make a difference here.

Why Should We Hire You? The common answer to this question is to list achievements and accomplishments that the interviewer can find on your resume, says Mavi. Mavi suggests this answer: I can only imagine the other candidates are equally accomplished. This is a high-pressure role, and in addition to my five years of experience successfully turning underproducing sales teams into high performers, I think those soft skills are a critical complement.

What Is Your Greatest Strength? A job candidate will often answer by calling themselves a hard worker, says Doucette. A better answer involves some prep work. A better answer is acknowledging that everybody screws up once in a while, he says.

What Is Your Salary Requirement? Many job seekers throw out a number, and sometimes it can be based on how much they want the job, says Jayne Mattson, senior vice president of the career-coaching firm Keystone Associates. This is a question that trips up a lot of candidates as it can be tricky to answer, says Tracy Cashman , a senior vice president and partner of WinterWyman Executive Search. A better answer ties your future plans into your past experience and your selling points, says Cashman. I would hope that my next role allows for that to continue over the next five years. Bad answers to this question include anything that is negative toward your present employer, sounds too vague, or involves confidential information, such as an impending layoff or client loss, says David Lewis, president and CEO of OperationsInc , a human resources outsourcing and consulting firm. The better answer is anything that implies you are looking to better yourself. Candidates who pass on this opportunity are missing an opportunity to shine, says Mavi. A better answer is asking a question that demonstrates an understanding of the competitive landscape of your particular industry, says Mavi.