Top 30 Best Questions to Ask the Interviewer

Here's a list of suggested questions to ask the interviewer so you can ensure the company is a good match for your qualifications and interests.

1. How would you describe the responsibilities of the position?
2. How would you describe a typical day in this position?
3. Is this a new position? If not, what did the previous employee go on to do?
4. What is the company's management style?
5. Who does this position report to? If I am offered the position, can I meet him or her before making my final acceptance decision?
6. Why is this position available?
7. How many people work in this office/department?
8. How much travel is expected?
9. Is relocation a possibility?
10. What is the typical work week? Is overtime expected?
11. What are the prospects for growth and advancement?
12. How does one advance in the company?
13. Are there any examples of a career path beginning with this position?
14. What can I clarify for you about my qualifications?
15. When can I expect to hear from you?
16. Do you provide professional development opportunities?
17. Do you have any reservations about my qualifications?
18. Do you have a policy for helping new members of the team get on board?
19. What are the biggest challenges of this job?
20. What's the most important thing I should accomplish in the first ninety days?
21. How would you describe this company's values?
22. How has the company changed over the last few years?
23. What are the company's plans for growth and development?
24. What are the biggest rewards of the job and working for this company?
25. What is the best part of working for this company?
26. What's your least favorite part of working here?
27. What type of background do you feel would be best suited for success in this position?
28. Would you like a list of references?
29. If I am extended a job offer, how soon would you like me to start?
30. Are there any other questions I can answer for you?
Never Ask These Questions at an Interview

Can I do this job from home?
If you are interviewing for a telecommuting job, the job description would have said so. Asking to work from home implies that you dislike working with others, you do not work well under direct supervision, or you have a difficult schedule to work around. Occasionally, employees who have held a position for a long period are allowed to telecommute, but this is not a concession you should ever ask for in a first interview.

What does your company do?
Avoid asking any questions about the company that you could have researched beforehand on the company website. These questions demonstrate that you have not done your homework, and imply that you are not truly interested in the position.

When can I take time off for vacation?
Don't discuss previous commitments before being offered a position. Asking about time off before getting a job offer implies that you are not going to be a fully committed employee.

Did I get the job?
This question puts employers on the spot and makes you appear impatient. Instead, you could ask for more information on the next step in the hiring process. For example, you can ask, "Do you generally do multiple rounds of interviews with job candidates?" However, if they are interested in you, most employers will give you this information before the end of the interview. Here are the best ways to ask for a job, without asking directly for the position.

What is the salary for this position?
Do not ask this question on a first interview. If you know that you will refuse a job that pays less than a certain amount, you can and should state the amount in your cover letter. However, if you are even somewhat flexible regarding salary, it is best not to discuss compensation until you are offered a position.

How many hours will I be expected to work each week? Will I need to work on weekends?
Questions about hours and extra work imply that you are hoping to work as little as possible. A better question would be, "What is a typical workday like?" The answer will likely give you insight into expected work hours.

How long would I have to wait to get promoted?
This question implies that you are not interested in the position for which you are applying and that you are merely waiting to move on to something better. Instead, you could ask the employer, "What are some of the opportunities for growth at this company?"

What type of health insurance does this company offer?
Wait until you are offered the position before you begin asking questions about benefits. However, if there is a benefit that you require from a job (such as a particular type of health insurance, a daycare program, etc.), bring it up with human resources rather than the interviewer.

More Questions to Refrain From Asking:
- Can I see the break room?
- How late can I be to work without getting fired?
- How long is lunch?
- Can I bring my dog to work?
- Will I have to take a drug test?
- Does this company monitor Internet usage?
- How many warnings do you get before you are fired?