

## Part 1 Common Work Questions

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# 1. Where do you work?

1. So, I work for a small tech enterprise. It's only been in business for about 5 years, so it's pretty fresh and it's in its developing stages.
2. I currently work in a fairly big architecture company in the centre of Moscow. So it specializes in eco-designs and sustainable living concepts.. Things like that.
3. I currently work as a teacher in a local primary school! And I teach grades 1 and 2! And I'll have been working there for 3 years in January!
4. I'm actually in between jobs at the moment. I took some time off as my mum wasn't well, but now I'm currently job-hunting for something part-time that just helps pay the bills. But thankfully my wife has a good job to keep both of us afloat at the moment!
5. I currently work in a law firm right now as a trainee solicitor. I actually did an internship with them which let me get my foot in the door. So I'm very lucky I have to say!
6. I work in a digital marketing company at the moment, but I'm counting the seconds till I get to hand in my notice! It's just a means to an end for me to be honest. I'm planning on heading back to university to study childcare in September!
7. I actually have a couple of jobs! I'm a mechanical engineer and I work for a car company called Ford. And as well, I tutor Maths on the weekend at my home to bring in some extra cash. You know, I guess it's kind of a side hustle!
8. I used to be a cook in an Italian restaurant, but I've recently become a stay-at-home mum. So I basically look after everything at the house, mind the kids, and I also help out with my husband's business accounts.

## 2. What's your job like?

1. Well, my job is quite creative. I get to work on an array of projects and you know, no two days are the same.. However, it can be quite taxing and stressful at times.. You know I have to constantly meet and exceed the client's demands, and if they're not happy, it can really damage our reputation and credibility. So yea, I have to always be on my toes, and make sure that we don't take our eye of the ball!

2. Well, there is a lot of creativity involved in my job. I work on piles of different projects and there is a lot of variety in my day! I obviously have to meet my deadlines of course.. and that can be quite a challenge sometimes! But you know my colleagues are superstars, they're always willing to lend a hand and check up on me to make sure I'm ok. Yea.. It's quite incredible really since they have their own work to get on with.. But that's just the way it is.. We're just such a tight-knit group!

3. Well, to be honest, I really don't like my job..you know.. it pays the bills, but it's by no means my passion! I'm actually currently searching for a different career path.. And I have to admit I've been low-key freaking out about this But yea, hopefully I'll find something that suits me! Nothing's really taken my fancy yet, but we'll just have to wait and see! My friend always tries to reassure me that something awesome will come along and she tries to keep me positive.. Which can be tricky because I'm not the most optimistic person in the world! So yea, I'm going to keep looking online and fingers-crossed I'll find my calling in life!

4. Hmm, if truth be told, I really dislike my job.. it's simply a means to an end. It's just not for me.. But on a more positive note, I'm currently applying to do a masters in Psychology which I'm eagerly anticipating! You know I've always been interested in how the brain works and I'm quite inquisitive by nature. And recently I've had a real desire to help those suffering from mental health problems.. You know it's an epidemic at the moment.. So yea..I think it suits me down to the ground!

5. Well, my job's ok.. it has it's pros and cons. I like the fact that I have a decent salary.. but I think the corporate culture is a tad stressful! My day to day tasks are actually quite interesting, but my boss likes to micromanage and it can really get on everyone's nerves! What else?.. I like the fact that I have some time-freedom in my job! You know.. I can choose my own hours and I can also work from the comfort of my own home which is an added bonus! Yea..

### 3. Why did you choose your job?

1. Well, if I'm being honest, I kind of just fell into this position. You know, I was just looking for anything to pay the bills and a buddy of mine referred me to the company. So yea, I just took the first thing that came my way really!

2. Well I've always been passionate about health, and I love working with people face-to-face, so I looked up a bunch of jobs that kind of fit that profile and then narrowed it down to the ones which I could really see myself doing long-term. Physiotherapy seemed to be well-paid and it was a job where I could really make a difference!

3. I honestly haven't a clue why I chose Marketing!! I guess it was because I didn't specialize in any particular field and Marketing was actually pretty easy to get into. But you know, I grew into the job. I started taking on more responsibility and getting more experience.. and I haven't looked back since!

4. Well, when I was in high school, I really loved IT class and I hung out with a bunch of computer fanatics who would discuss some of the latest apps and news about certain programmers. So that got me into it.. I started programming at a young age.. And I guess before I knew it, I had become pretty nifty at it! So maybe it was always in the cards you know that I would go on to become a programmer! Who knows!

5. Well I've had a pile of jobs over the years but nothing really stuck! I tried finance, sales, marketing and even construction! Anyway, long story short, I realized that I wanted to dictate my own schedule and my own work. I basically wanted more freedom to manage my schedule. I came across freelance consulting, read up on it a bit and gave it a whirl! And so far, so good!

## 4. Do you like your colleagues?

1. Yea, they're awesome actually. We honestly get on like a house on fire! You know, we're always joking around, pulling pranks on each other and just having a laugh! It's a really great vibe in the office! And yea.. Everyone just looks out for each other which is nice!

2. Hmm.. well.. I would say that some of them are nice.. But others I don't really get on with.. Some of them are just a little bit too pretentious for my liking! You know, they'd talk about all the fancy places they've been to or what they've bought and I just really couldn't care less what they have to say! But some of the new staff are really friendly and down to earth!

3. Well I work with my brother so I guess I have to get on with him regardless of whether I like him or not! I'm joking! We work really well together because we understand each other. I think that's the key! We just try to be flexible and agreeable as much as possible!

4. I actually just started my job so I don't know everyone that well to be honest! So far everyone has been pretty friendly and helpful so I imagine that we'll all get on well. I think there's a good work environment and company culture so that probably contributes to the cheerful atmosphere! But yea, I'm really looking forward to getting stuck in and just getting to know everybody on a deeper level.

5. Yea, they're all pretty sound to me! As long as I get on with my work and do a decent job, they're happy with me.. and that creates a good, healthy, work relationship. I don't know if I'd go and have a beer with them on the weekend or anything, but I'd definitely have a coffee and a chat during lunch! So yea, they're decent people!

## 5. Is your job popular in your country?

1. Yea, I'd say it's fairly popular. I think because it's a well-paid job with good career prospects which it makes it pretty attractive. And it also has a lot of perks like they fly you round the world, put you up in fancy hotels and you get to rub shoulders with some pretty big names! So it can really catapult your career
2. Oh, totally. I think it's popular not only in Russia, but also all over the world. You know, it's a kind of job that will always be needed. So I think it'll remain a sought-after profession for many years to come. And you know I think there's some prestige which comes along with it and it kind of elevates your socioeconomic status.. which people don't like to admit, but like.. let's face it, you'd rather have a job where people look up to you and are impressed than a low-skilled job which is almost frowned upon or is seen to be of less worth. You know?
3. For sure. Engineering is becoming more in demand year on year and I can't see it changing anytime soon! You know, technology is becoming ever so integrated into our lives, and I reckon there'll be an even greater need for more engineers to operate and repair machines in the future! You only have to look at the top tech companies like Google or Apple to realize the maintenance required.. Like think of all the hardware they have! They spend an absolute fortune on upkeep from the very best and brightest engineers!
4. Mmm. Yea, teaching is most definitely popular in Peru, but to be honest, it's super oversaturated! Like.. There are just way too many people who want to be teachers but there aren't enough positions available! And you know we have other industries which are crying out for staff.. Like our national health service is really understaffed at the moment. But yea, I wonder if it's a generational thing.. Like maybe it was just a popular career path at the time.. when kids were growing up.. or for whatever reason.. I'm not sure.
5. Not really.. I think that my job is fairly specialized.. so it takes years before you're fully qualified, licenced and able to practice. So only a handful of people actually become eye-surgeons. But yea, I definitely think it's on the radar for prospective students coming through because you can live a very comfortable lifestyle and not have to worry about making ends meet. It's just more the stress and mental fatigue which might turn people off. But I guess that's part and parcel of heaps of jobs!
6. 100%! We have a massive coffee scene in Vietnam, so we'll always need baristas. And they're a dime a dozen in the major cities so the salary isn't anything to write home about! But yea.. I guess it's more about the love of the craft, you know the passion, it's kind become an art form particularly for hipsters!!!.. Or that's at least that's how it comes across to me! Like my Instagram is flooded with artistic coffee-making montages and epic shots of freshly- brewed coffee! So yea.. I think baristas will be a pretty popular position for many years to come!

## 6. What are your responsibilities at work?

1. Well, I'm in charge of ordering raw materials from our suppliers. It's pretty simple really, you know, you just try to find the best deal with regards to the quality and the price. So yea, I would make sure that we have enough inventory, I would keep an eye out for any discount opportunities, and ensure all the products are processed and logged into the system correctly. It's handy enough!
2. Well, I'm an architect.. So I design houses! I take care of any tasks that the boss sends my way, whether it's a sketch, report or client meeting. I'm usually the one who signs off on any design submissions and I spend a great deal of my time communicating what the client wants with the rest of the team. So I guess I'm kind of the middle man which I quite like because I'm a little bit OCD and I like to be in control as much as possible! It's just in my nature you know.. Some people think I'm a 'control freak' but I just like things done right!
3. As part of the product quality assurance team, we're responsible for making sure all products adhere to the regulations. So we need to basically carry out some tests and make sure they're functioning correctly before giving the green light! There's also a lot of paperwork that comes along with the job unfortunately.. So yea.. I have to make sure I have that all filled out and handed in before the deadline!
4. As an early childhood studies teacher, I have to assist in the development of the child. You know, their personal, social, language and physical coordination abilities. So we have to create visual aids and teaching resources.. And come up with songs and all types of creative activities. So yea, I usually have a heap of lesson planning to get through over the weekend, but I really don't mind. I just flick on some TV show for background noise, pour myself a glass of wine and yea.. the time flies by!
5. Well, I'm a waiter and also a barista, so I obviously wait the tables and take orders.. But I'd say most of the time I'm behind the counter making coffees. You know, there are only two of us in the cafe who have a reasonable amount of experience making coffee so I guess that's why! Other than that, we clean everything up.. You know, we have to make sure everything is clean and tidy because our manager is a total hard-ass.. We just know that she'll be on our backs and honestly I can't put up with listening to her lecture us on how to wipe down a bloody table! So yea..
6. Where do we start?! Well as an app developer, I mostly work on the back-end so I write the web services and APIs used by front-end users.. I basically create code... I try to improve the server and take care of a lot of bugs and so on.. And I'd say my job is mostly troubleshooting and fixing problems!

## 7. Would you want a different job in the future?

1.No, I'm pretty happy in my current job. I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else to be honest. If anything, I'd just like to progress in my career, maybe publish some of my research in some scientific journals.. What else.. I'd be pretty open to the idea of lecturing in a university.. Or at least just having some kind of mentoring role. That'd probably be the dream for me! I'd be pretty chuffed with that!

2.Yea, for sure. I'm currently studying a masters in oil and gas management, so I'd like to find a management job in one of the top companies. But you know there's a long road ahead.. So I'm just trying to keep focused, try to take in as much as I can, and hopefully one day some opportunities will present themselves! Fingers crossed!

3.Mmm, maybe.. It depends really. If someone was to offer me a job with an attractive salary in my field I'd definitely consider it! But I'm pretty picky with jobs, and I'm actually quite content in my current position. I guess we'll just have to wait and see! I'm well aware that things change and people move on ..and who knows.. I might want a bit of a shake up in the future! So yea..

4.Not really to be honest. My current job ticks all the boxes for me. You know, it's well-paid, I have a flexible schedule, and I find the work really mentally-stimulating as well! I wouldn't mind getting a promotion in the future though!! I'm joking.. But that would actually be nice!.. Buuut anyway, I'd love to stay at my current company because I get on really well with everyone here and they're kind of like a family to me at this point. So yea, as long as it's within the company.



## 8. What was the first day of your work like?

1. It was pretty normal I'd say. The HR manager just introduced me to all the staff, I was given a tour of the office, and my boss just went through all my duties. It was pretty nice actually, everyone was super welcoming!
2. Goodness! Well it wasn't what I was expecting, I can tell you that! I basically got thrown in at the deep end! My boss asked me to do a job that I wasn't prepared for at all! Basically all the new recruits had to make phone calls to clients. Man, it was intimidating! But I got through it unscathed thankfully!
3. Well, it was a day I'll never forget! I didn't have much experience at the time so I had no confidence whatsoever! And call me naive, but I expected to learn my role in stages- bit by bit.. but that wasn't the case at all! It turned out that we were understaffed that day, so they needed me to help out with the service! I made so many embarrassing mistakes! But I guess that's what happens when you're thrown in at the deep end! So yea.. That was that!
4. Honestly, it couldn't have went better! I remember meeting all the staff and getting on with them like a house on fire! I was given a few tasks to do and I got them done and dusted ahead of schedule, and then we all stayed after work and had drinks together, exchanging stories and just having some banter! It was so damn good! I honestly wasn't expecting everything to go as smoothly as it did!

## 9. Is there anything you dislike about your job?

1. Absolutely! I mean, who doesn't?! I personally hate the micromanagement at my job! It really gets on my nerves when my boss is always snooping around to see what I'm up to.. I mean, how am I supposed to focus on my work when I have to constantly look over my shoulder?! Aside from that, there is a bit of paperwork now and again.. But that doesn't bother me.
2. Awk yea, I think there are always little things which bother us! I personally find that the location of the job is the reason for most of the things that get on my nerves! -Like the street noise for example. The construction work at our office building never seems to end! And of course, there are delivery vans loading and unloading every single day, so sometimes that can cause a fair amount of stress. But aside from that I can't really complain.
3. Oh you bet! For one, company meetings! It just irks me that we have them monthly! I really can't wrap my head around the need for so many! I know that the vast majority of businesses have meetings every quarter. And that's more than plenty! But other than that I'm pretty content.. It's not the worst place in the world!
4. Honestly, nothing comes to mind! I love pretty much everything about my job.. My colleagues are lovely and always willing to lend a hand.. The job is fairly low-stress and I can just get on with it without all the bureaucracy that other people put up with. And my boss is literally the best! She always knows exactly what to do! Like you know those people who can take on massive high-stakes projects but it doesn't seem to phase them? You know?..Yea.. that's her!

## 10. Do you work better in the mornings or the evenings?

1. Oh, I'm 100% a morning person! I just feel so much more productive in the mornings than I do in the evenings. Maybe it's because I've run out of energy by the end of the day! My dad is exactly the same so I must take after him in that respect! He would have gotten up at ungodly hours just to get a few things done around the house! I don't know how he did it! But yea.. I'm definitely a morning person too!

2. I've always been a night owl to be honest. It's just so difficult for me to get going in the morning. Maybe that's because I'm exhausted from staying up late the previous night! I just find myself mindlessly scrolling through pointless videos and pictures on Youtube and Instagram! But you know I've made a resolution that I'm going to start going to bed earlier and get up earlier! So hopefully I'll be a different person!

3. Neither! I actually work ten times better in the afternoon! It's kind of a happy medium let's say! I definitely don't work effectively at night because my family are home from work, making noise and so on. So it's really hard to stay focused and keep on track. And the morning is the morning! Who wants to do anything in the morning! I'm lucky if I can even hold a conversation with someone at 7am! So yea, I'm all about the afternoon!

4. I work way better in the mornings.. You see, I start my day with a workout. I just run around the local park. And that really wakes me up and gets me focused on the work I have to do for the day ahead. So by the time I sit down at my desk, I'm already in the zone! It's quite funny actually because people at the office envy me! Like they're always telling me that they wish they had my willpower to get up and exercise! But you know.. I just tell them that people are just built differently!

5. I work a million times better at night. I haven't the faintest idea why.. But I just get this surge of energy! I'm well aware that it's quite odd but I just get this urge to keep going.. and a lot of the time I have to tell myself to call it quits and go to bed! It's just hard to stop when you're in a productive mood! So yea.. I definitely work a little bit better at night!

## 11. Do you prefer to work in a quiet environment or somewhere with some noise?

1. A quiet environment **for sure!** I work in an office **where** I **attend meetings**, **write reports** **and things like that**, **so** I can't imagine that **I'd be able to** **get through** a work day with anything more than.. I don't know.. a.. **mild chatter!** **So yea..** definitely quiet!
2. **I personally** don't mind a little bit of noise **actually!** **Otherwise** I start to **fidget** and **procrastinate**. **Obviously** **I'm not talking about** **construction noise** or anything **over the top**, but I find it quite **calming** **when** there are other people **moving about**. **I don't know, maybe it's just me!** My friends often call me a **weirdo!**
3. I really can't **put up with** noise **in general**, I need my **peace and quiet!** **Obviously** there are certain types of tasks **where** noise is **unavoidable** and I don't mind that. And I actually I don't mind **background noise** sometimes when I work though. I quite like to **flick on** the tv or **put some music on** **while** I'm studying.
4. Well, I work in a factory and other noisy places **on a daily basis**, it's just part of the job. I **quite like** the noises the machines make, and I enjoy having some **banter** with my **colleagues**, **so I guess** **I'd lean more towards** noisy environments **I think!**

## 12. What is your ideal job?

1. Well, I'm fairly content in my job right now to be honest! You know, I've really worked hard to get to where I am today and I don't take my job for granted! I'm just so grateful to be able to provide for my family and have a job that I'm passionate about! So yea, I'm happy!

2. Hmm, maybe an astronaut! I mean, I don't think I'm anywhere near smart enough, but this is hypothetical! You know, it would be a real dream come true to be able to look down on the earth from a truly unique perspective and as well, to go where very few have gone before! I just think that'd be awesome!

3. Well it's always been a dream of mine to be a professional basketball player! I grew up watching Michael Jordan and I just can't imagine what it'd be like to play basketball for a living! So yea.. maybe a basketball player! Although I'd maybe have to shoot up a few inches and put a tad more muscle on!

4. Any job?! Hmm, well, I think if I could go back in time and start again, I'd try to become a doctor. You know, I was smart in school but maybe I just didn't have the drive or focus that is needed to pursue a career in medicine! That'd be cool.

5. Well, I'm currently applying to a bunch of jobs in software engineering. I'd love to work for a massive tech company like Google or Facebook. I just have to keep my head down and work hard and who knows, one day it might happen! Fingers crossed!

6. An architect! I've been fascinated with design since I was a kid, and it would be so rewarding to know that I had a hand in building something extraordinary! As well as that, I like the idea of future generations seeing something I built! So yea, an architect.

## 13. Has your work changed in recent years?

1. Yea, it's changed quite substantially! I used to work in quite a small company with local clients and other small businesses, but now I'm in a large international corporation which.. you know.. takes on massive projects! It's chalk and cheese really!
2. Not at all! I've had the same job for nearly ten years now! Maybe I've got a little bit more responsibility and people call on me for advice from time to time, but generally speaking, my job's practically the same as the day I started!
3. I'd say it's somewhat changed. I used to work quite broadly with every type of project, and now I've specialized in a particular area of projects. And I've also got some young guys to do some of the dog work for me! So they carry out any general sort of task that would eat up my time while I just focus on big picture things! So that's a perk!
4. I think it changes every year. As I learn more and become more capable in my job, I get given more responsibility. Obviously they're compensating me for this extra value. But yea, we have new staff that come and go every couple of years so that obviously changes the work dynamic a fair bit.. But yea.. I can't think of any other ways it's changed!
5. Oh, totally! I've made a massive career change as I used to work in finance, and now I'm back at university studying Engineering! So I just have a few years to go and then hopefully I'll find a well-paid engineering job! Touch wood!

## 14. In the future, do you think there will be any changes in your industry?

1. Awk I've no doubt that there'll be changes! You know, the world is constantly evolving and I don't see any reason why it would stop! And I'd say there'll be a fair bit of automation in my industry in the coming years. As AI is integrated more and more, I imagine that jobs will become more specialized and employees will take on more management positions.
2. In the near future, no, but in the distant future, absolutely! Teaching is a profession which requires feedback so at the moment I don't think the tech is sophisticated enough to handle this level of complexity! I'd say that it'll take at least twenty years for the algorithms to develop this precision! But who knows!
3. Without a doubt! CAD and other sketching software were revolutions in my industry, and I'm constantly hearing that they're on the cusp of something else which'll completely change the game! Perhaps VR immersive architecture will become a reality!
4. I can't see it changing a whole lot! I reckon there'll be less paperwork of course.. And maybe a more flexible and progressive work schedule. And I'd like to think that we won't be working the standard 9 to 5 jobs, but rather a 4 day work week! Maybe that's a bit of a stretch, but I can always dream, can't I?!
5. Indeed. I think the big tech advances will completely change the face of medicine in years to come! I can only imagine what machines will be able to do! You would expect that they would be able to perform certain low risk procedures as the algorithms become more complex. But yea.. I think the sky is the limit with these.. this new breed of technology!